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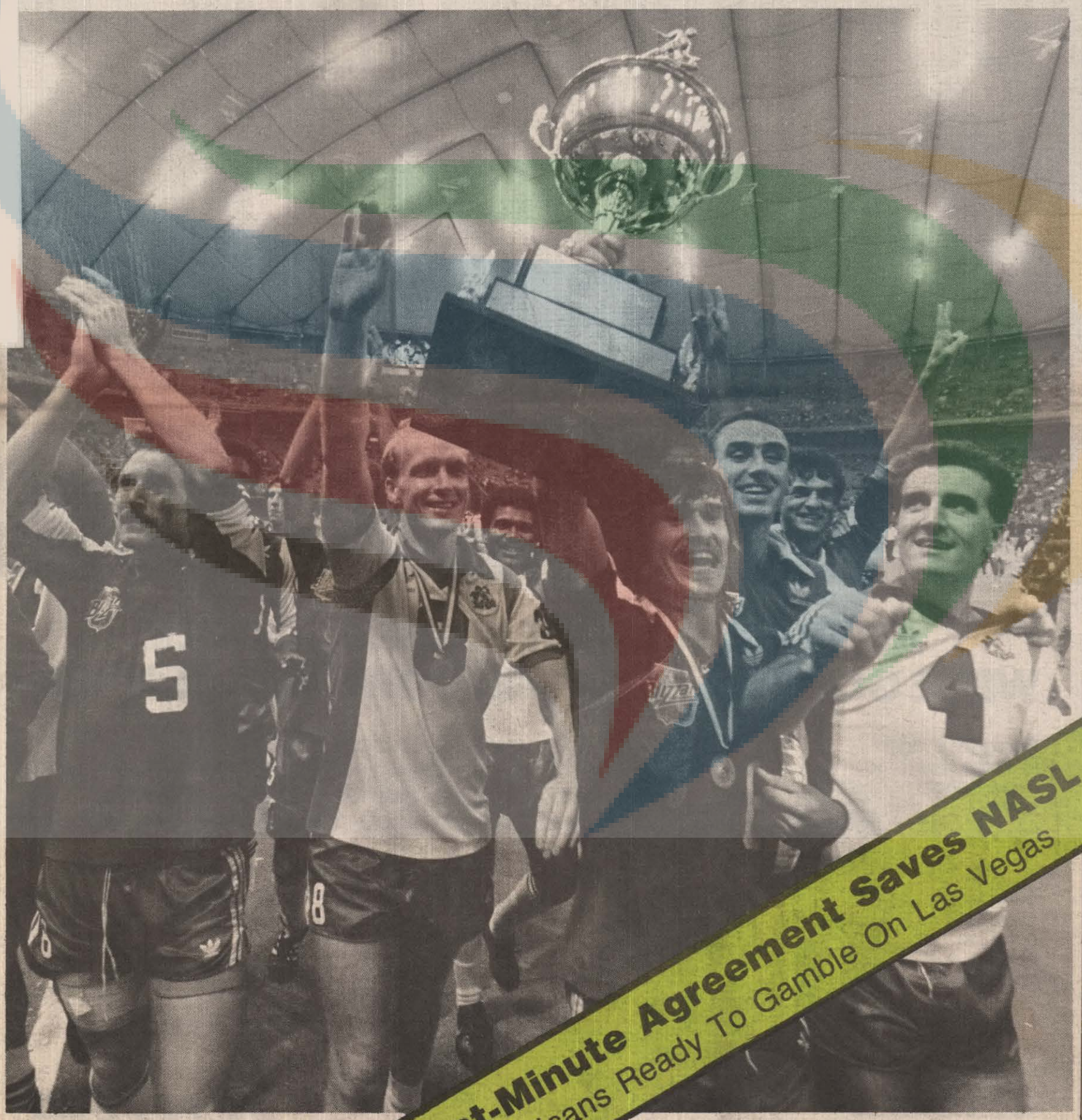
Soccer America

America's Foremost Soccer Weekly

1984 NASL PREVIEW



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This week

America's Foremost Soccer Weekly
★ 1971 Serving American Soccer 1984 ★

4 • 1984 NASL Preview

An eleventh-hour agreement between the NASL owners and the players' union will allow the 1984 season to begin as scheduled on May 5.

Chicago Sting 5
Golden Bay Earthquakes 6
Minnesota Strikers 8
New York Cosmos 10
San Diego Sockers 12
Tampa Bay Rowdies 14
Toronto Blizzard 16
Tulsa Roughnecks 20
Vancouver Whitecaps 21

22 • George Best Returns

After undergoing a controversial surgery, soccer star George Best will suit up again in San Jose for a Quakes reunion game.

24 • Americans Moving To Las Vegas

The owners of the Memphis Americans have finally conceded defeat and sold the franchise to Las Vegas investors for $1.6 million.

30 • France In A New Position

Victory over West Germany makes host nation France a favorite for the European Championship this June.

This week's cover

The Tulsa Roughnecks, shown celebrating their Soccer Bowl win in 1983, expect some changes to result in success for the team both on the field and at the gate during the 1984 outdoor season. Pictured are Njego Pesa, holding trophy, Ron Futcher (#8), and Pasqualle Fuccillo (#4). (Photo by Kent Kallberg)

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DIRECT KICK / Only a battle was won

By CLAY BERLING
Publisher

Until the wee hours of last Friday morning (New York time) we were still trying to decide what was going to happen to this issue. Some weeks ago, when it became apparent that a player/owner confrontation was likely, we had decided to proceed as if all would work out. As our publishing week of April 19 loomed nearer and nearer, we became convinced that this one was going down to the wire.

By April 9 we were sure that the problem would not be resolved in time for our scheduled preview issue, and so we aborted our plans. This meant that our scheduling for a four-color cover and bindery work would not match up with the schedule at the printer. Our plans for the enlarged, bound format had to be scrapped. And even then we weren't sure that there would be any 1984 North American Soccer League preview. There might not have been a season.

We had hedged our bets a bit. Story assignments for our writers had gone out weeks before, and were in fact practically all ready to go, with some updates if needed. The big update we were worried about was the finale of the season. Of course, making format changes may not give us all we would like in the issue, but we can live with those uncertainties. But the writing could not wait, so a major investment was already committed, and it might all yet be scrapped!

Since our typesetting and layout is done right in our offices each week, we can be fairly flexible about that part of the production process, but even with that we had three possible scenarios until those wee hours I mentioned. We might go with the preview (*sans* the bound format and four-color cover), we could go with a total rewrite based on the collapse of the league, or we could go with another regular issue, if things were still going on in the smoke-filled room.

When the news came from league headquarters that the matter was settled, we felt the way it must have felt on D-Day. We were on for a GO! Friday became a scramble to pull our material together and get the preview portion ready. The call went out for some special reports and our issue should be out on time . . . although a week late and a few shortcuts made. At least we won't be out a day late for binding . . . unless . . .

You may wonder why I share these inside items with you this week. It is only one small example of plans having to be changed because of unsettling league problems. Certainly, suppliers and employees at many levels have been anxiously wondering where they might be going or what they would be doing if conditions changed.

Many people probably think that a soccer club simply gets itself together and plays! Actually, the playing part is virtually the last link in a chain of events. Before it comes a promotion and publicity program, player workouts and training, stadium relations, program printing and a myriad of details associated with any major business.

What happened last week was only one small part of the process; the players and owners simply decided they *could* work out a way to play the game together. It is only one small battle in the ongoing war of game development. That battle was "won" for a day, hardly a lifetime. At this point we are not certain that enough details have been worked out to assure anything more than another season of monetary losses. While players salaries are a significant portion of the total outlay, they are far from the total problem of making this game a winner at the professional level.

We are now about to embark on the 1984 North American Soccer League outdoor season. The slimming effect of financial losses should not be ignored. This is not what one would call a "seller's market." The season must develop a healthy relationship to attendance and finances. This doesn't mean vast crowds or major profits, but rather a ratio of both, which says "we've got this thing worked out, and we know where we are going this time."

I can tell you right now that *Soccer America* wants the 1984 season to be a healthy one. We want the NASL to understand its own problem and to see itself as part of a larger game, one that contributes to the NASL as much as the NASL contributes to the rest. It is an interaction of forces that work together to grow. The future of the NASL lies in realizing, at last, that it can't simply climb by its own bootstraps, but that it needs the rest of the people who are involved. They tried to go their own way, and made a mess of it. Ironically, they (the NASL and its member clubs) were the largest losers.

We have often been accused of printing too much about the pros and not enough about the youth and amateurs of America. Some think that *Soccer America* must tie itself to the pros for its own sake. I won't deny that we feel the health of our fortunes is impacted greatly by the health of the pros. Every club that disappears has taken a significant number of subscribers with it. One man recently wrote that he wasn't renewing his subscription because they "don't have a pro team here anymore." We know from our fall-off by areas that what he said is repeated again and again.

Each new club means that we have to work a whole new campaign in an area to restore our readership. To that extent we do reflect the pros. At the same time we find many other areas of American soccer that could use some coverage, and there is an entire world of soccer for which we get more and more demand. We have reported to you before that not every level is every person's cup of tea. There are several different reading markets. None of them is large enough (in number of readers, that is) to support itself. So we attempt to bridge different reader groups.

But when all is said and done (and especially by those who tell us how many readers we'll get from *their* group . . . virtually none!), our surveys tell us over and over again that the main interest is in the American pro soccer scene.

Gentlemen of the NASL! There is a growing number of people out there who want to follow your good fortunes. They want to help you win your war. Give them a chance. Treat them the way you want to be treated.

NASL survives: 'It ain't over 'til it's over'

The North American Soccer League will kick off its 1984 outdoor season, as scheduled, on May 5

By Paul Kennedy

The announcement that the North American Soccer League's owners and players had settled their differences with a new three-year collective bargaining agreement came only hours before the April 19 deadline for a settlement was to expire.

The good news drew a collective sigh of relief from everyone connected with the sport, not the least of whom were those of us at *Soccer America,* who figured this preview issue's only value would be as a hot collector's item.

The collective bargaining agreement reached after months of heated negotiations, includes the following provisions:

Payroll cap: Each club must reduce its player payroll each year by 10 percent until it has reached a payroll cap of $825,000, but the cap applies only to 15 players on each club's roster and not to its highest-paid players.

Roster size: Each club must reduce roster size to a maximum of 19 players and a minimum of 17.

North American starters: Each club must start at least five North American citizens in 1984 and 1985 and six in 1986.

Foreign imports: Each club can import two new foreign players over the next three years, but not more than nine can enter the NASL in any one year. The agreement allows clubs to trade their rights to their two foreign players among themselves.

Apprentice contracts: Each club can sign three North American citizens to an apprentice contract. These players will not count toward the limitations on each club's roster size, and they will not have to receive the minimum salary for a first-year player until they have played 10 NASL matches.

Temporary injury contracts: For the first time, a club can replace a North American citizen or a permanent alien resident who is on the disabled list with a player who will be signed to a 10-day contract (indoors) or a 15-day contract (outdoors).

Two-year option: Players signing new contracts with two-year options will not receive a salary increase during the first option year, but they will receive a 10 percent increase during the second. Under the previous agreement, players received 10 percent and 7.5 percent increases during their two option years.

Minimum salaries: The minimum salaries for the first-year, second-year, and third-year players will be $25,000, $26,000 and $30,000 per year, respectively. That represents an increase of roughly 15 percent over the minimum salaries under the old agreement.

Guarantees: Contracts remain guaranteed after a certain point in the season. For example, a player in his fourth year will have his full contract guaranteed 48 hours after the second game of the season.

"Major accomodations have been made by both players and owners for the long-term stabilization of the sport by adding a salary cap to the leaguewide cost-cutting measures that all clubs have already introduced, said NASL president Howard Samuels.

"We are attacking the problem which has plagued professional sports for the last five years — the escalation of costs beyond income. A salary cap should also achieve competitive balance, which is in the best long-term interest of the sport."

"I'm happy with the outcome," added John Kerr, executive director of the North American Soccer League Players Association, "simply because circumstances in which we were dealing were so tough that it would have been easy to throw away what we have accomplished.

"Indeed, it is remarkable that the two sides not only reached a compromise, but they've also reached a compromise with which it appears they can both live. When you consider the dimension which existed — and which still exists to a certain extent — within the ranks of the owners, the players and the time constraints which the negotiators faced, the agreement is, as Samuels termed 'a historic document.' "

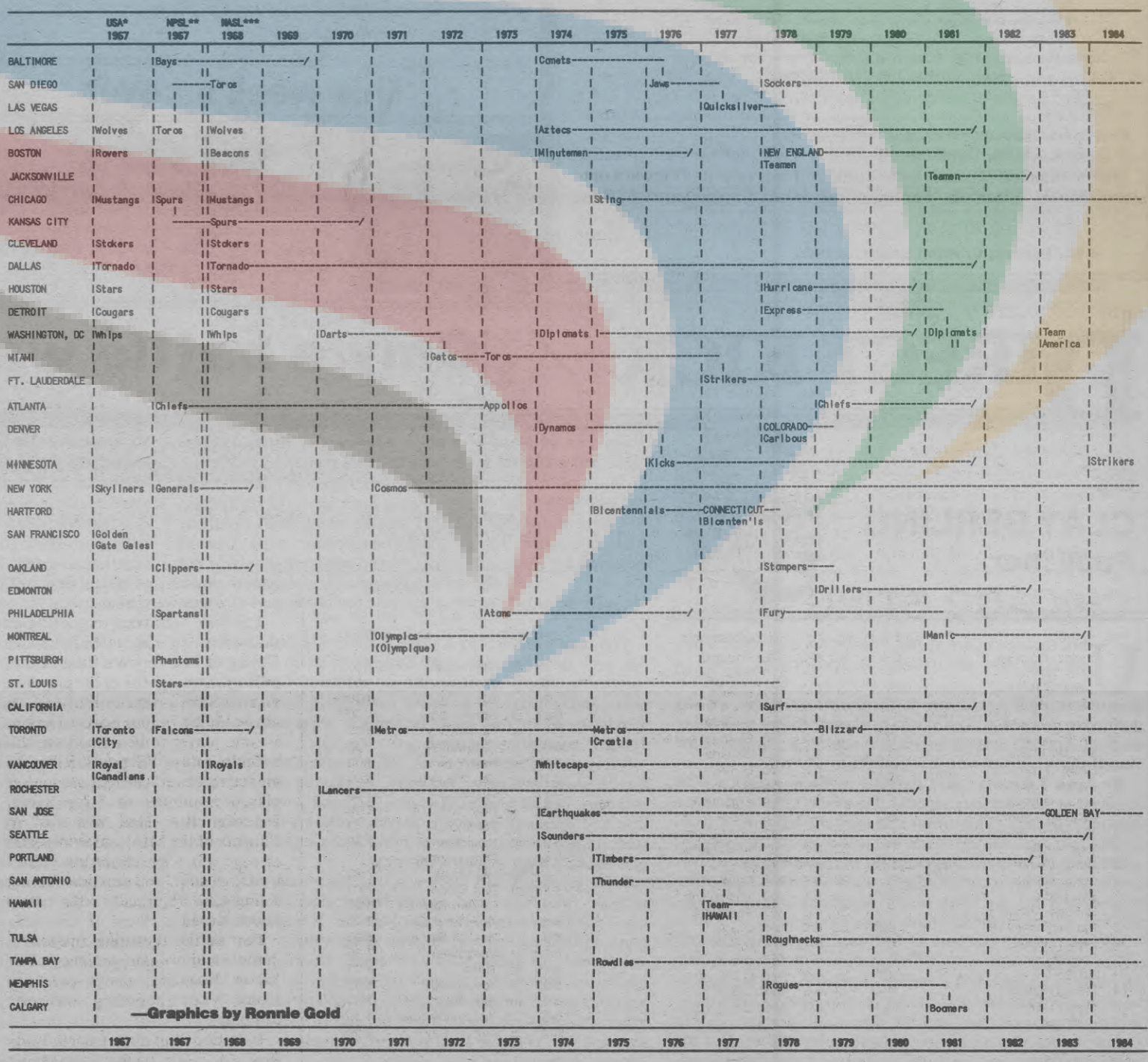
Still, the NASL's historic austerity plan, of which the collective bargaining agreement is an integral part, will be quickly forgotten if the NASL is unable to improve the on-the-field product and the off-the-field promotion efforts. The easy part was to reduce costs; the hard part that remains will be to increase revenues. Probably the most startling figures to emerge from the negotiations were not the enormity of the owners' annual expenses, but the quantity of their annual revenue — an average of only $1.3 million, with a high of $2.5 million and a low of $600,000 — according to the financial statements provided by the NASL.

There was reason for optimism last week in New York, where the NASL and Players Association announced their settlement, but a long road lies ahead.

As Yogi Berra said, "it ain't over 'til it's over."

Evolution of North American Soccer League

A reminder of days (and teams) gone by, the following is a record of the many changes that have occurred in the league. Tracing its history from 1967, before the merger of the National Professional Soccer League and the United Soccer Association created the NASL, the graph follows the league's evolution to the present.



—Graphics by Ronnie Gold

* FIFA-affiliated teams were brought intact from Europe and South America to represent the United Soccer Association (USA) cities. The teams were as follows: Boston-Shamrock Rovers of Dublin, Ireland; Chicago-Cagliari of Sardinia, Italy; Cleveland-Stoke City of England; Dallas-Dundee United of Scotland; Detroit-Glentoran of Belfast, Northern Ireland; Houston-Bangu of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Los Angeles-Wolverhampton of England; New York-Cerro of Montevideo, Uruguay; San Franicsco-ADO of The Hague, Holland; Toronto-Hibernian of Edinburgh, Scotland; Vancouver-Sunderland of England, and Washington-Aberdeen Dons of Scotland.

** The National Professional Soccer League (NPSL) recruited foreign and domestic talent, but was not sanctioned by FIFA.

*** The North American Soccer League (NASL) was created by the merger of the National Professional Soccer League (NPSL) and United Soccer Association (USA) on December 13, 1967..

CHICAGO STING

'Year that almost wasn't' could be big for the Sting

By John Leptich

CHICAGO — The big story for the 1984 outdoor Sting isn't so much how it will play, but the fact that the club is playing at all.

After nine seasons of outdoor play, Sting owner Lee Stern wanted to take a summer off and asked fellow North American Soccer League moguls to okay the vacation. Seven of Stern's lodge brothers said no. Joe Robbie of the Minnesota Strikers said yes.

So it's a 10th anniversary celebration for Stern and the Sting, even if the party is forced. Stern gave Sting faithfuls the modern 10th anniversary gift: Diamonds. Not the ones that glitter, but those that baseball, and in this case outdoor soccer, are played on.

The one-season hiatus Stern did get was a move from Comisky Park and Wrigley Field, to cavernous Soldier Field in 1983. After a dismal summer, Stern jockeyed his way out of a 10-year lease with the Chicago Park District and will play nine matches at Comisky Park, three at Wrigley Field.

"It's back to grass," said Stern. "Being back at the ballparks will help."

Indeed, the friendly confines of Wrigley Field, coupled with the atmosphere and advertising of playing at Comiskey Park, which the almost-sure-to-be-pennant-contending White Sox call home, will be a big plus for the Sting.

Still, this is going to go down in the books as The Year That Almost Wasn't.

"I feel forced to play outdoor," said Stern. "But what could I do? I was looking at it from a business standpoint. I still love outdoor soccer. I think the fans should realize that if I was turned off toward outdoor soccer, I would have told them to jump in the lake. Indoor will never replace outdoor in the realm of our culture.

"As far as the NASL is concerned, there is no emphasis on indoor. If you took a vote right now, you'd find San Diego and Chicago for indoor. Tulsa and Minesota would want both. And New York, Vancouver, Tampa Bay and Toronto would want outdoor.

"As it is, I have a feeling that 1984 will be a big outdoor season for the Sting."

At 15-15 last season, the Sting had the fifth-best record in the NASL, which earned it the No. 2 wild-card playoff spot. It lost a quarterfinal playoff match to Golden Bay, 3-2, and changes were made.

Backup goalkeeper Dragan Radovich, rookie defender Peter Gallagher and forward John Tyma were released right after the playoffs. Tim Twellman went to Kansas City of the Major Indoor Soccer League as the player-to-be-named in the ridiculous Greg Villa deal. Villa was loaned to Team America, and never played a minute in Sting livery. Defender Bret Hall was sold to Phoenix of the MISL, defender Don Droege was released during indoor training camp, and defender Young Jeung Cho returned to his native South Korea.

For all the returning firepower, defense and brilliant goalkeeping of Victor Nogueira, many questions cloud the upcoming outdoor campaign.

It is doubtful that Coach Willy Roy will retain backup goalkeeper Ed Gettemeier or veteran forward Ingo Peter. Gettemeier, who played outdoors with Montreal, has looked shaky at best during indoor play. For the past two years Peter, who has suffered from recurrent back spasms and other injuries, hasn't shown the outdoor ability he displayed in his first two seasons. Other than two penalty-kick goals in the playoffs last season, Peter hasn't scored a goal in two years.

Other question marks are forward Ricardo Alonso, the gifted Argentine who has a knack for scoring on headers. Alonso hasn't signed a contract and recurrent injuries have limited his bargaining power. Seldom-used players Diego Castro, a forward, and defender Mike Twellman may also be on the way out. Defender Dale Russell and forward Elvis Comrie must also wonder if they will be retained.

Veteran forward Seninho, who had an impressive 1983 as a free agent, has been invited back for outdoor play, after returning to Portugal for the winter. Roy also may be interested in San Diego defender Gert Wieczorkowski, who has had run-ins with Sockers' coach Ron Newman, and Tampa Bay goalkeeper Jurgen Stars, who may not fit in with Rodney Marsh's plans.

Veteran forward Seninho, free agent in 1983, has been invited back to Chicago for outdoor play. (Photo by Milton Crossen)

CHICAGO STING

No.	Name	Position	Age	Ht.	Wt.	Citizenship
1	Victor Nogueira	GK	24	6-0	180	Portugal
2	Hans Weiner	D	24	6-2	175	West Germany
3	Greg Ryan	D	27	5-9	155	U.S.A.
4	Peter Gruber	D	31	5-9	161	West Germany
5	John Mcgrane	D	30	5-9	160	Canada
6	Dave Huson	D	33	5-9	150	Channel Islands
7	Victor Kodelja	D	32	5-10	165	Canada
8	Rudy Glenn	D	25	6-2	185	U.S.A.
9	Charlie Fajkus	F	27	5-10	158	U.S.A.
10	Pato Margetic	F	23	5-11	154	Argentina
11	Mark Simanton	D	25	5-11	158	U.S.A.
12	Karl-Heinz Granitza	F	32	6-0	182	West Germany
14	Ingo Peter	F	32	6-3	187	West Germany
15	Chris Kenny	D	21	5-10	170	U.S.A.
16	Diego Castro	F	22	5-9	152	Chile
17	Zac Ledic	D	31	6-1	160	Yugoslavia
18	Ricardo Alonso	F	27	6-3	190	Argentina
19	Pat McGauley	F	22	6-0	160	U.S.A.
20	Elvis Comrie	F	24	5-11	170	U.S.A.
21	Dale Russel	D	28	5-10	165	U.S.A.
22	Ed Gettemeier	GK	24	6-0	175	U.S.A.
24	Mike Twellman	D	23	5-9	155	U.S.A.
25	Mike Flood	M	21	6-2	190	U.S.A.

Chicago Sting
333 North Michigan Avenue
Suite 1525
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 558-5425

CHICAGO			Eastern Div.
5-12	at	Minnesota	7:30
5-19		Minnesota (C)	1:30
5-25		Tulsa (C)	8:00
5-27	at	Golden Bay	4:00
6-1	at	Tampa Bay	8:00
6-3		Tampa Bay (W)	1:30
6-10	at	New York	3:00
6-13		San Diego (C)	8:00
6-17		Tulsa (C)	1:30
6-22		New York (C)	8:00
6-24	at	Toronto	6:30
6-27	at	Vancouver	7:30
7-4		Toronto (tba)	1:30
7-11	at	Minnesota	7:30
7-18	at	San Diego	7:00
7-21		Golden Bay (C)	8:00
8-4		New York (C)	8:00
8-8		Golden Bay (C)	8:00
8-12	at	Vancouver	7:30
8-16	at	Tulsa	8:00
8-22		Toronto (C)	8:00
8-29	at	San Diego	7:00
9-3		Vancouver (tba)	1:30
9-7	at	Tampa Bay	8:00

GOLDEN BAY EARTHQUAKES

Earthquakes have some gaps to fill before opener

MVP Steve Zungul will return as forward for the 'Quakes. (Photo by Frederic Brown)

By Dave Payne

SAN JOSE — Don Popovic is going to have some holes to fill before the Golden Bay Earthquakes kick off the outdoor season on May 19 at Spartan Stadium against the San Diego Sockers.

The Quakes' coach no longer has forward and midfielder Stan Terlecki, his third-leading scorer in 1982 who left the club after the season and eventually signed with the New York Cosmos.

And he no longer has Germain Iglesias, an American midfielder who has been sidelined until early 1985 with a knee injury. He required surgery after suffering a torn ligament in a March 11 indoor match against San Diego.

"We already knew we were going to be playing without Stan, but an unexpected loss like Germain hurts us badly," Popovic said. "He was going to be one of my starting five American players. Now, without him, we've got problems."

A North American Soccer League requirement this season is that teams must play at least five North American players at all times. Iglesias' loss leaves Popovic without a North American midfielder.

Veteran midfielder Leo Cuellar, a citizen of Mexico, is eligible for his American citizenship. Quakes owner Carl Berg is hoping to make it happen by the opening of outdoors. If it doesn't, Popovic is either going to have to do some juggling or acquire himself another North American who can play the middle.

"I want to become an American citizen, sure," Cuellar says. "But I'm leaving it in the hands of the Earthquakes and Carl Berg."

With the loss of Iglesias, the Quakes have 21 players on their active roster. Of their 11 North American players, six are defenders (Mike Hunter, George Katakalidis, Hayden Knight, Jeff Stock, Tim Schulz and Barney Boyce), three are goalkeepers (Bob Rigby, Bill Irwin and Chris Sigler) and two are forwards (Tim Bartro and Igor Vrablic).

The rest of the squad is made up of foreign players — forwards Steve Zungul, Godfrey Ingram and Jan Goossens, midfielders John Bain, Chris Dangerfield and Cuellar, and defenders Fernando Clavijo, Steve Litt, Mihalj Keri and Edgardo Lopez.

Popovic's only two sure spots at the moment that will be filled by North Americans are left fullback, where Hunter started last season, and goalkeeper with either Rigby or Irwin.

Litt and Keri are penciled in at stopper and sweeper, respectively. The right fullback spot may belong to Clavijo, if he isn't moved to defensive midfielder to make room for another American, probably either Stock or Katakalidis. And if Clavijo goes to the middle, what happens to Dangerfield?

Popovic would appear to be okay up front with Ingram and Goossens on the left and right wings, and Zungul at striker. But, again, he may have to use either Bartro or Vrablic as one of his forwards because of the rule to use five North Americans.

Maybe Popovic can move one of his forwards back into the midfield — Zungul, perhaps? — to make room for one of the North Americans up front. Zungul, who missed the equivalent of 11 games last season with a chronic hamstring pull, nevertheless finished as the league's third-leading scorer with 16 goals and 15 assists in 22 games. The Cosmos' Roberto Cabanas led the league with 25 goals and 16 assists in 28 games, and Chicago's Karl-Heinz Granitza was second with 15 goals and 18 assists in 29 matches.

Ingram was ninth in scoring last summer with 15 goals and 11 assists in 25 games. Goossens' was the club's fourth-leading scorer with 12 goals and eight assists, behind Terlecki's 11 goals and 14 assists.

The Fearsome Foursome of Zungul, Ingram, Terlecki and Goossens combined for 54 goals and 48 assists. The Quakes were the league's second-highest scoring team last season with 71 goals. The Cosmos were first with 87.

Popovic may also be working with even fewer numbers if the league works out an agreement with the NASL Players Association to trim rosters to a maximum of 19 players and a minimum of 16. Injured players would be placed on a reserve list and not count on the active roster.

Popovic has six new players on his roster since last season. He picked up Bartro, Stock and Bain in last year's dispersal draft of the Seattle Sounders. Knight played last season for Team America, Vrablic is a 19-year-old member of the Canadian national team and Lopez came here during the indoor season from Uruguay.

Bartro, 19, had one goal and two assists in seven games last season with the Sounders. Stock, 23, had his fourth NASL season cut short last summer when he suffered a season-ending knee injury in the fifth game. Popovic is very high on both players.

Popovic is just as high on Vrablic. The 6-foot-2 forward is presently with the Canadian Olympic team, which is battling Costa Rica and Cuba for one of two berths available to the three nations in the forthcoming Summer Games.

The Quakes, who had more than their share of players with knee injuries during the indoor season, may be without Dangerfield, Rigby and Keri until late in April or early May. All three were scheduled to undergo arthroscopic knee surgery at the conclusion of the indoor season. Dangerfield reinjured his right knee in the Quakes' next-to-last indoor game. The knee required an arthroscopic operation in late December.

"We've got a lot of work in front of us before we open the season," Popovic said. "The best thing for these players now is a three-week vacation before we start training for outdoors."

Popovic said camp will open with two-a-days on April 21 for some players. He has set April 25 for the entire squad to be present. The team will work out at West Valley College in Saratoga.

Golden Bay's first game is a May 6 exhibition against the Sockers in Livermore, about 40 miles northeast of San Jose. The club will play a reunion game on Saturday afternoon, May 19. George Best is expected to play for the Quakes' alumni.

The Quakes will entertain the Cosmos twice during their 24-game league season — June 13 and Sept. 3. They also will face Sporting Lisbon in an exhibition match on June 17.

Golden Bay Earthquakes

No.	Name	Position	Age	Ht.	Wt.	Citizenship
1	Bob Rigby	GK	32	6-0	175	U.S.A.
3	Mike Hunter	D	26	5-8	160	U.S.A.
4	Jeff Stock	D	24	6-1	175	U.S.A.
5	Steve Litt	D	29	6-2	180	England
6	John Bain	M	26	5-7	165	Scotland
7	Chris Dangerfield	F	28	5-11	165	England
9	Germain Iglesias	M	25	5-10	150	U.S.A.
10	Jan Goossens	F	26	6-0	165	Holland
11	Steve Zungul	F	29	6-0	175	Yugoslavia
12	Leo Cuellar	M	32	5-8	160	Mexico
14	Mihalj Keri	D	33	6-1	180	Yugoslavia
16	Godfrey Ingram	F	25	5-7	150	England
17	Hayden Knight	D	27	6-1	175	U.S.A.
18	Tim Bartro	F	19	5-10	150	U.S.A.
19	George Katakalidis	D	22	5-9	160	Canada
20	Chris Sigler	GK	23	6-2	175	U.S.A.
21	Fernando Clavijo	D	27	5-10	148	Uruguay
22	Barney Boyce	D	23	5-10	160	U.S.A.
23	Igor Vrablic	F	18	6-2	170	Canada
25	Tim Schulz	M	22	6-0	175	U.S.A.
26	Edgardo Lopez	D	21	5-9	150	Uruguay
31	Bill Irwin	GK	32	6-0	175	U.S.A.

Golden Bay Earthquakes
800 Charcot Avenue
Suite 100
San Jose, CA 95131
(408) 946-5020

Western Div.

5-19		San Diego	8:00
5-23	at	Vancouver	7:30
5-27		Chicago	4:00
6-3	at	San Diego	7:00
6-8	at	Minnesota	7:30
6-13		New York	8:00
6-22	at	Tulsa	8:00
6-30		Tampa Bay	8:00
7-4	at	Tampa Bay	7:00
7-8		Tulsa	4:00
7-11		Toronto	8:00
7-14		Minnesota	8:00
7-21	at	Chicago (C)	8:00
7-25		Tulsa	8:00
7-29	at	New York	7:00
8-8	at	Chicago (C)	8:00
8-12	at	Toronto	6:30
8-18		Vancouver	8:00
8-22	at	Vancouver	7:30
8-25		Toronto	8:00
8-29	at	Tampa Bay	8:00
9-1	at	Minnesota	7:30
9-3		New York	4:00
9-8		San Diego	8:00

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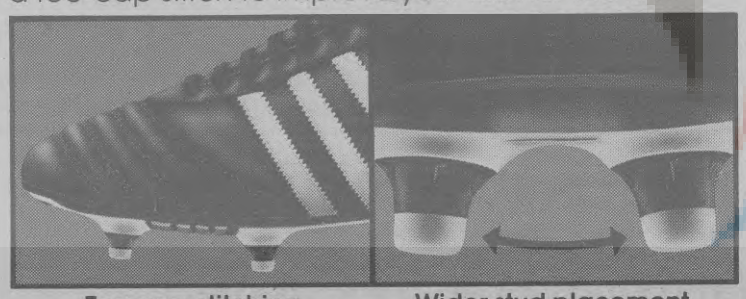
adidas reports:

Now anybody who's serious about soccer has a chance to play in the World Cup.

Our World Cup—the best soccer shoe you can buy. Best because it's designed to improve every part of your game.

Ball control: our top grain leather upper is constructed to fit your foot like a glove. And stitched with a toe-cap stitch to improve your feel for the ball.



Toe-cap stitching. Wider stud placement.

Power: our patented three-material sole provides for maximum strength with minimum loss of energy. The combination of three materials provides flexibility with a rebounding effect to add sting to your shot, eliminate cleat pressure, while ensuring adequate shock absorption.

Three-material sole.

Speed: our shoe is incredibly light. That, combined with the flexibility of the sole and the wider placement of our long-wearing safety studs, means you'll experience footing and stability you've never had before.

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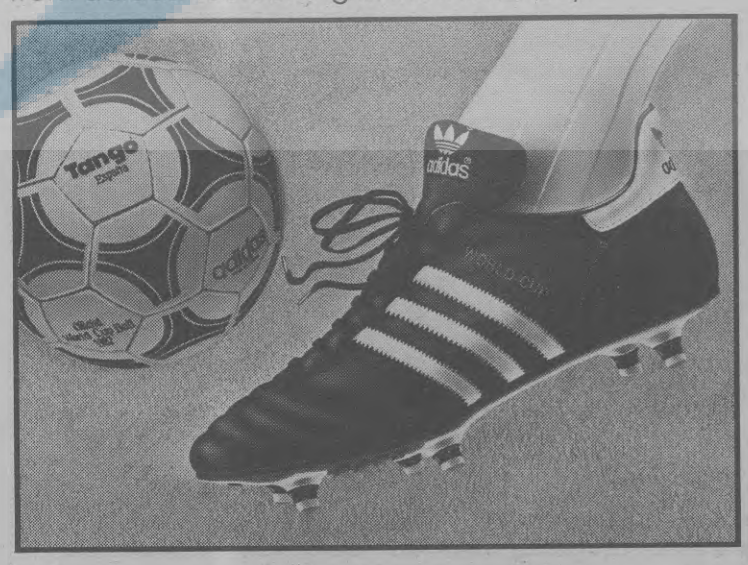
So if soccer's a game you take seriously, take it from adidas. You belong in the World Cup.



The World Cup

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MINNESOTA STRIKERS

A season of 'Let's Make a Deal' for Strikers

The Strikers recently acquired Hermann Trophy award-winner Mike Jeffries, who thinks the professional game "will take some getting used to."

By Gary Olson

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Minnesota soccer fans took a "kick in the grass" in 1981 when Ralph Sweet folded the Kicks via intercontinental telephone. In November, the Fort Lauderdale Strikers left the sunshine in search of a home for the indoor season. What they found in the Twin Cities are two indoor homes, not one — the Metrodome for the outdoor season and the Met Center for the indoor.

"We would be more comfortable that we could duplicate the success of the Kicks [24,000 average over six years], if we could have played at the Met [Stadium]," Strikers general manager Tim Robbie said. "The Dome remains an intangible.

"The Kicks lured the young crowd with a party atmosphere.

"It's important for us to run first-rate promotions, win the fans back. We'll have all the usual giveaways plus. We're going to give a car to a fan one night and we're ironing out the final details to give away a house."

Soccer fans are being courted with the slogan: "What's the most fun you can have with your shoes on?" Let's not ask Mr. Sweet.

For Robbie, it's been a winter of "Let's Make a Deal." GM's get like that when faced with snow drifts and office assignments.

If Robbie's father, Joe, had attempted with his Dolphins what Tim did with the Strikers, National Football League commissioner Pete Rozelle would be en route to Miami to do one of two things: name him NFL Man of the Year or have him committed.

Grandiose moves went out of style in the NFL years ago.

"On paper, we've had a good off-season," Tim Robbie said. "However, the jury remains out until you see how the people fit on the field."

Since last season, the Strikers have:

- Purchased goalkeeper Tino Lettieri from Vancouver.
- Traded defender Dan Canter to the Cosmos for Hermann Trophy Award-winner Mike Jeffries, more cash than it took to buy Lettieri and New York's No. 1 draft choice next season.
- Purchased forward Alan Willey, defender Dwight Lodeweges and midfielder Greg Ion from Montreal prior to a dispersal draft.

"Since we didn't have a place to play the indoor season, we loaned Canter to the Cosmos and [coach] Eddie Firmani fell in love with him," Robbie said. "They started to bug us to make a trade.

"Initially, we said 'no way,' but they kept upping the ante.

"As the Cosmos' offer was becoming harder and harder to refuse, Lettieri was having a fallout with Vancouver management. Things fell together at the right time.

"We considered Lettieri and Canter pretty much equals so, as it turned out, the Cosmos gave us Jeffries and their No. 1 draft pick as a bonus."

Canter was runner-up for rookie of the year in 1982 and was the MVP on Team America last season.

Lettieri has had the lowest goals-against average in the North American Soccer League each of the last two years — 1.23 in 1982 and 0.87 in '83 — and was the North American player of the year last year.

"Transfer fees for the rights to a player of Tino's caliber are a common phenomenon in our league," Robbie said.

"Vancouver changed its coach and general manger in the middle of the indoor season. Tino did not see eye to eye with the new people and he and the team voiced their dissatisfaction back and forth in the press. When Tino found out he wouldn't start for a road game, he returned to Vancouver — rather than sit on the bench — and was suspended.

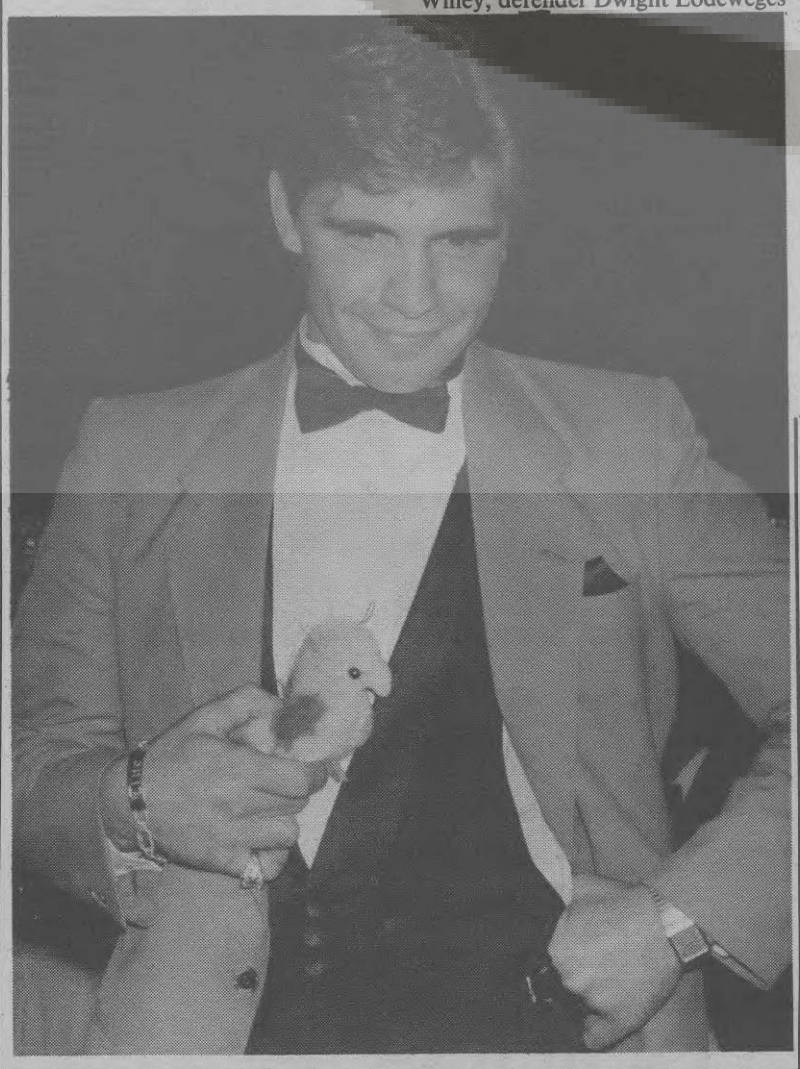
"It worked out great for us. Tino liked the Twin Cities when he was with the Kicks and let it be known he would enjoy coming back. He's one of the finest keepers in the game." Jeffries was available, Robbie explained, because of the difference between college and professional soccer. "Even though he was voted the best college soccer player last year, it does not guarantee he'll be a first-rate player for us," Robbie said.

"We feel he will be a solid player . . . although maybe not right away."

Jeffries practiced indoors for a month before leaving the Twin Cities for the Strikers' rookie camp. "Winning the Hermann Award is an honor I'll always have," he said, "but no one is giving me any extra room because of it.

"The physical part of the pro game will take some getting used to. In college I played sweeper. Here, it'll be more one-on-one as a defender. I'm looking forward to the challenge."

The Strikers are looking forward to the challenge of a new home, too.



Goalkeeper Tino Lettieri, a Strikers' purchase from Vancouver, has had the lowest goals-against average in the NASL during 1982 and '83. (Photo by John DeFreitas)

MINNESOTA STRIKERS

No.	Name	Position	Age	Ht.	Wt.	Citizenship
00	Craig Scarpelli	GK	22	5-11	170	U.S.A.
1	Tino Lettieri	GK	26	5-8	165	Canada
2	Dwight Lodeweges	D	26	6-1	175	Canada
4	Ray Hudson	M	29	6-1	175	England
5	Ricardo Villa	M	31	6-0	185	Argentina
6	Thomas Rongen	M	27	6-0	170	Holland
7	Ken Fogarty	D	29	5-8	170	England
9	Alan Willey	F	27	5-11	163	England
11	Brian Kidd	F	34	6-0	180	England
12	Carl Strong	M	26	5-10	170	U.S.A.
14	Greg Ion	DM	21	5-10	157	Canada
16	Mike Jeffries	D	21	5-9	155	U.S.A.
18	Robert Meschbach	F	29	5-9	165	U.S.A.
19	Greg Kennedy	D	22	5-9	156	U.S.A.
20	Branko Segota	F	22	5-9	160	Canada
22	Bill Crook	D	20	6-0	170	U.S.A.
24	Bob Bolitho	D	31	5-9	165	Canada
25	Bruce Miller	M	26	5-10	170	Canada

Minnesota Strikers
8100 Cedar Avenue South
Suite 115
Minneapolis, MN 55420
(621) 854-3616

Western Div.

5-5	at	Tampa Bay	8:00
5-12		Chicago	7:30
5-19	at	Chicago (C)	1:30
5-26	at	San Diego	7:00
5-28		Tampa Bay	7:00
6-3	at	Toronto	3:00
6-8		Golden Bay	7:30
6-16		San Diego	7:00
6-24	at	Vancouver	7:30
6-30		New York	7:30
7-11		Chicago	7:30
7-14	at	Golden Bay	8:00
7-18	at	Tampa Bay	8:00
7-21		Vancouver	7:00
7-28	at	Tulsa	8:00
8-3		San Diego	7:30
8-10		New York	7:30
8-17		Toronto	7:30
8-19	at	New York	7:00
8-22		Tulsa	7:30
8-25	at	Tulsa	8:00
9-1		Golden Bay	7:30
9-3	at	Toronto	6:30
9-8	at	Vancouver	7:30

SCHEDULE

NASL

MAY

Sat. May 5	Minnesota at Tampa Bay	8:00
Sat. May 12	Chicago at Minnesota	7:30
	San Diego at Vancouver	7:30
Sun. May 13	Tulsa at Toronto	3:00
	Tampa Bay at New York	3:00
Fri. May 18	Vancouver at Tampa Bay	8:00
Sat. May 19	Minnesota at Chicago[1]	1:30
	Toronto at Tulsa	8:00
	San Diego at Golden Bay	8:00
Sun. May 20	Vancouver at New York	3:00
Wed. May 23	Golden Bay at Vancouver	7:30
Fri. May 25	Tulsa at Chicago[1]	8:00
Sat. May 26	New York at Tampa Bay	8:00
	Minnesota at San Diego	7:00
Sun. May 27	Chicago at Golden Bay	4:00
Mon. May 28	Tampa Bay at Minnesota	7:00

JUNE

Fri. June 1	Chicago at Tampa Bay	8:00
Sun. June 3	Tampa Bay at Chicago[2]	1:30
	Minnesota at Toronto	3:00
	Golden Bay at San Diego	7:00
	Tulsa at Vancouver	7:30
Fri. June 8	Golden Bay at Minnesota	7:30
Sat. June 9	Tampa Bay at Tulsa	8:00
Sun. June 10	San Diego at Toronto	3:00
	Chicago at New York	3:00
Wed. June 13	San Diego at Chicago[1]	8:00
	New York at Golden Bay	8:00
Fri. June 15	Vancouver at Tulsa	8:00
Sat. June 16	San Diego at Minnesota	7:00
Sun. June 17	Tulsa at Chicago[1]	1:30
	Toronto at New York	3:00
Fri. June 22	New York at Chicago[1]	8:00
	Toronto at Tampa Bay	8:00
	Golden Bay at Tulsa	8:00
	Vancouver at San Diego	7:00
Sun. June 24	Tulsa at New York	3:00
	Chicago at Toronto	6:30
	Minnesota at Vancouver	7:30
Wed. June 27	New York at Toronto	8:00
	Tulsa at San Diego	7:00
	Chicago at Vancouver	7:30
Sat. June 30	New York at Minnesota	7:30
	San Diego at Tulsa	8:00
	Tampa Bay at Golden Bay	8:00

JULY

Sun. July 1	Vancouver at Toronto	6:30
Wed. July 4	Toronto at Chicago[3]	1:30
	Golden Bay at Tampa Bay	7:00
Sun. July 8	Tampa Bay at Toronto	6:30
	Tulsa at Golden Bay	4:00
	New York at Vancouver	7:30
Wed. July 11	Chicago at Minnesota	7:30
	Tampa Bay at New York	9:00
	Vancouver at San Diego	7:00
	Toronto at Golden Bay	8:00
Sat. July 14	New York at Tulsa	7:30
	Tampa Bay at San Diego	7:00
	Minnesota at Golden Bay	8:00
Sun. July 15	Toronto at Vancouver	7:30
Wed. July 18	Vancouver at Toronto	8:00
	Minnesota at Tampa Bay	8:00
	Chicago at San Diego	7:00
Sat. July 21	Tulsa at Tampa Bay	8:00
	Vancouver at Minnesota	7:00
	Golden Bay at Chicago[1]	8:00
	Toronto at San Diego	7:00
Wed. July 25	San Diego at New York	9:00
	Tulsa at Golden Bay	8:00
Sat. July 28	San Diego at Tampa Bay	8:00
	Minnesota at Tulsa	8:00
Sun. July 29	Golden Bay at New York	7:00

AUGUST

Fri. Aug. 3	San Diego at Minnesota	7:30
Sat. Aug. 4	New York at Chicago[1]	8:00
Wed. Aug. 8	Golden Bay at Chicago[1]	8:00
Fri. Aug. 10	New York at Minnesota	7:30
Sun. Aug. 12	Tampa Bay at San Diego	1:00
	Golden Bay at Toronto	6:30
	Chicago at Vancouver	7:30
Wed. Aug. 15	San Diego at New York	9:00
	Tampa Bay at Vancouver	7:30
Thurs. Aug. 16	Chicago at Tulsa	8:00
Fri. A g. 17	Toronto at Minnesota	7:30
Sat. Aug. 18	Tulsa at Tampa Bay	8:00
	Vancouver at Golden Bay	8:00
Sun. Aug. 19	San Diego at Toronto	6:30
	Minnesota at New York	7:00
Wed. Aug. 22	Tulsa at Minnesota	7:30
	Toronto at Chicago[1]	8:00
	Golden Bay at Vancouver	7:30
Sat. Aug. 25	Minnesota at Tulsa	8:00
	New York at San Diego	7:00
	Toronto at Golden Bay	8:00
Sun. Aug. 26	Tampa Bay at Vancouver	7:30
Wed. Aug. 29	Vancouver at New York	8:00
	Golden Bay at Tampa Bay	8:00
	Chicago at San Diego	7:00
Thurs. Aug. 30	Toronto at Tulsa	8:00

SEPTEMBER

Sat. Sept. 1	Golden Bay at Minnesota	7:30
	Tulsa at San Diego	7:00
Mon. Sept. 3	Vancouver at Chicago[3]	1:30
	Minnesota at Toronto	6:30
	New York at Golden Bay	4:00
Wed. Sept. 5	Toronto at New York	9:00
Thurs. Sept. 6	Vancouver at Tulsa	8:00
Fri. Sept. 7	Chicago at Tampa Bay	8:00
Sat. Sept. 8	New York at Tulsa	8:00
	Minnesota at Vancouver	7:30
	San Diego at Golden Bay	8:00
Sun. Sept. 9	Tampa Bay at Toronto	6:30

[1]—Comiskey Park
[2]—Wrigley Field
[3]—to be announced

We bring our soccer camp to you!

EASTERN SOCCER ACADEMY

This year, during July and August, we will be running a number of soccer day camps in partnership with clubs in the following locations: New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia.

We offer:

• Professional coaches from England. • Full soccer uniform for each child. • Supurb soccer skills award scheme. • First class advanced program. • Free accident & liability insurance.

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Eastern Soccer Academy sleepaway locations 1984. Boys & Girls 6-19 years.
SUNY – Old Westbury, Long Island, New York: July 8-13 / "The Gunnery" – Washington, Connecticut: July 15-20, July 22-27, July/Aug. 29-3, Aug. 5-10.

YOU NEED A GOOD HEAD TO BUY SOCCERBALLS

YOU ALSO NEED GOOD INFORMATION

There are more different kinds of soccerballs in the world these days than you'd care to count. One of them is exactly what you're looking for. But which one?

Is it that expensive air balanced hand-sewn leather model? Or one of the many sewn and panel-built balls in various grades of leather and different types of synthetic coverings all down the line.

If you're going to choose the right ball you've got to answer a few questions.

What ages are the players? What sort of surface will they be playing on? Is the ball intended for official play or practice? Do you need different balls for both? How long do you expect your soccerballs to last? Should they meet the standards of FIFA, NAIA, NCAA, ASL, MISL, NASL, AYSO? How should the carcass be wound? And with what? Is waterproofing important? Coated or treated? How many panels?

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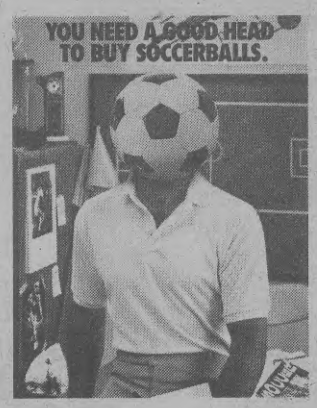
Spend a few minutes with the AMF Voit guide to buying soccerballs. Send us a self addressed 9" x 12" envelope, stamped with 40¢ postage to: AMF Voit, 5741 Rostrata Ave., Buena Park, CA 90621, for your copy.

After that, when it comes to soccerballs, you'll have a good head on your shoulders.



AMF Voit

NEW YORK COSMOS

Change sweeps Cosmos in an attempt to regain past days of glory

NEW YORK COSMOS

No.	Name	Position	Age	Ht.	Wt.	Citizenship
1	Hubert Birkenmeier	GK	34	5-10	169	West Germany
4	Jeff Durgan	D	22	6-1	195	U.S.A.
5	Darryl Gee	D	21	5-10	155	U.S.A.
8	Vladislav Bogicevic	M	33	6-1	180	Yugoslavia
11	Dragan Vujovic	F	30	6-1	190	Yugoslavia
12	Steve Moyers	F	28	5-10	158	U.S.A.
13	Johan Neeskens	M	32	5-9	170	Holland
14	Stan Terlecki	F	28	5-8	155	Poland
15	Alan Green	F	30	5-8	145	U.S.A.
16	Angelo DiBernardo	M	27	5-9	154	U.S.A.
17	Ferdinando DeMatthaeis	F	22	5-9	153	Italy
18	Dan Canter	D	22	6-1	175	U.S.A.
19	Roberto Cabanas	F	22	5-9	155	Paraguay
20	Andrew Parkinson	F	24	6-0	178	U.S.A.
21	David Brcic	GK	26	6-2½	173	U.S.A.
22	Refik Kozic	D	32	5-11	177	Yugoslavia
23	Mike Fox	M	22	5-10	160	U.S.A.
24	Kazbek Tambi	M	22	6-0	165	U.S.A.
25	Gerry Gray	F	23	5-7	150	Canada
26	Dusan Nikolic	M	31	5-7	170	Yugoslavia
27	Carmine Marcantonio	M	29	5-9	153	Canada
28	Hernan "Chico" Borja	F	24	5-11	155	U.S.A.

New York Cosmos
44E. 50th Street
New York, NY 10022
(212) 308-1410

			Eastern Div.
5-13		Tampa Bay	3:00
5-20		Vancouver	3:00
5-26	at	Tampa Bay	8:00
6-10		Chicago	3:00
6-13	at	Golden Bay	8:00
6-17		Toronto	3:00
6-22	at	Chicago (C)	8:00
6-24		Tulsa	3:00
6-27	at	Toronto	8:00
6-30	at	Minnesota	7:30
7-8	at	Vancouver	7:30
7-11		Tampa Bay	9:00
7-14	at	Tulsa	7:30
7-25		San Diego	9:00
7-29		Golden Bay	7:00
8-4	at	Chicago (C)	8:00
8-10	at	Minnesota	7:30
8-15		San Diego	9:00
8-19		Minnesota	7:00
8-25	at	San Diego	7:00
8-29		Vancouver	8:00
9-3	at	Golden Bay	4:00
9-5		Toronto	9:00
9-8	at	Tulsa	8:00

By Ike Kuhns

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The first dynasty of the North American Soccer League has ended. Or has it? The Cosmos, dominant team in the league for the past seven years, face the 1984 season pondering their future and that of their league.

The only thing they are certain of is that sweeping changes have been made. Giorgio Chinaglia, the one-man assault force who rampaged through the NASL for those seven years, demolishing the league's record book, has retired to buy his own team in Italy.

The elegant Franz Beckenbauer apparently has retired for the final time to join "the other side" and become a sports columnist in Germany. Gone, too, are Wim Rijsbergen, Andranik Eskandarian, Julio Cesar Romero and the popular Ricky Davis.

In an attempt to recapture at least a little of their past glory, the Cosmos' hierarchy brought back Eddie Firmani as head coach. Firmani coached the first two championship teams in the dynasty before running afoul of management and being fired.

Now he's back and, in a matter of weeks, he had put together a team good enough to finish second in the indoor season, earning coach of the year honors.

"It's not going to change," he said of the Cosmos, "it's still going to be the same strong Cosmos."

Like all of the teams in the NASL, the Cosmos have gone through massive cost-cutting maneuvers and they won't be buying high-priced imports this summer. But they are still counting on their strong ties to the international game to turn their fortunes around.

Their schedule includes opponents like Barcelona of Spain with Diego Maradona, Udinese of Italy with Zico, Fluminense of Brazil with Socrates and Juventus of Italy with Paolo Rossi. And they open their season with a gala Cosmos vs. Cosmos game featuring the all-time Cosmos team against the current squad, bringing back Pele, Beckenbauer, Chinaglia, Dennis Tueart, Roberto Rivelino, Francisco Marinho, and others for one more apearance.

Rafael de la Sierra, president of the club following a major overhaul of the entire organization, asserts "the fans are going to see the best players in the world play here."

The Cosmos hope to pull crowds of 50,000 for the international dates to attract media attention and prove that there is nothing wrong with the game that proper promotion can't cure.

"We're going to help our league games, too," de la Sierra said, "by scheduling some rock concerts and having some halftime shows put on by Ringling Brothers Circus."

De la Sierra remains optimistic about the league's future.

"In my opinion," he said, "the best nine teams have survived and with the consolidation of talent I think the caliber of players league-wide will be better this year than it's ever been."

But he sounds a note of caution, too.

"I personally don't think we can do much more than we're doing this year," he said. "We're doing the best we can, bringing in the best, and now we need the fans' support and media support."

Firmani thinks he has an exciting team on the field. At surprisingly little cost he accumulated some top talent to complement holdovers like Vladislav Bogicevic, Roberto Cabanas, and Hubert Birkenmeier.

"It is a new era in a way," the coach said. "Management felt they needed changes. I think the main thing is that we're trying to get the excitement back into the game, get the enthusiasm back of all the supporters who left us."

Firmani adds that this time he has a much freer hand in selecting players than he had the first time around.

"If I can pick the players I want here, there won't be any pressure on me because I'm confident we'll be a winning team," he said.

The roster he is developing is flexible. Up front, Cabanas, scoring champion of the league last summer as Chinaglia's heir-apparent, will be flanked by veteran wings, Dragan Vujovic and Stan Terlecki. Or, Steve Moyers could be installed as a center forward with Cabanas dropping back to a deep-lying position as an attacking midfielder.

Bogicevic and Johan Neeskens will be in the midfield and Firmani can choose from among Chico Borja, Andrew Parkinson, Gerry Gray and Pedro DeBrito for the other midfield spot.

The center of the defense will be the tandem that was so effective for Team America last summer: Jeff Durgan at stopper and Dan Canter at sweeper. Asked if he had second thoughts about using a player so young at sweeper following in the footsteps of Beckenbauer, Carlos Alberto and Keith Eddy, Firmani said, "If youth was a problem I wouldn't have played Mike Connell at 17 at sweeper in my championship team in Tampa in 1975. Canter can handle the job."

For fullbacks he can choose from among Angelo DiBernardo, Carmine Marcantonio, Gray, Kazbek Tambi and, possibly Darryl Gee, who suffered a severe groin pull during the indoor campaign.

Birkenmeier will probably be the No. 1 goalkeeper ahead of David Brcic who did the bulk of the work indoors.

But the rule requiring five U.S./Canadian citizens in the game at all times will occasionally dictate which lineup Firmani will use.

"I have so many permutations with this team," the coach said, "that I don't think things are going to change at all. The Cosmos will still be the Cosmos."

Roberto Cabanas (#9), league scoring champion, will be up front for the Cosmos again this year. (Photo by N. R. Rowan)

"New Balance introduces a foreign word to soccer:

Technology."

Bryan Robson
England & Manchester United Captain

Soccer hasn't changed much since the basic rules were written in 1863. Likewise, the soccer *shoe* remained pretty basic—until New Balance came along with a whole *line* of high performance soccer shoes.

Drawing upon sophisticated running shoe technology—plus the advice of European professionals like Bryan Robson—New Balance has created soccer shoes that establish new standards for comfort, protection and performance.

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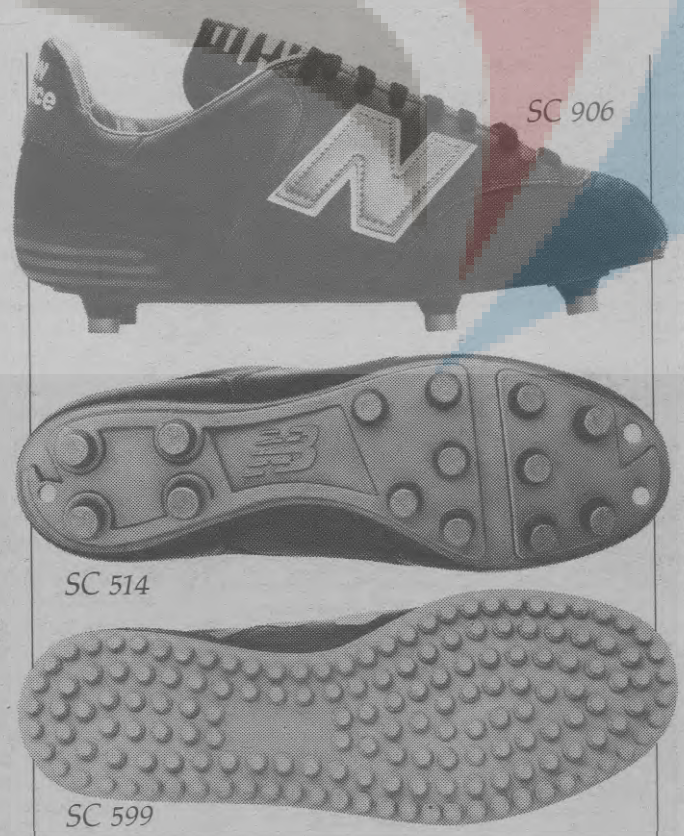

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SAN DIEGO SOCKERS

Sockers celebrate recent indoor championship. Seated, right to left, are Guy Newman, Cha Cha Namdar, Julie Veee, Ade Coker. (Photo by N. R. Rowan)

Sockers expect major overhaul to spell success this season

By Rick Davis

SAN DIEGO — Perhaps what happened to the San Diego Sockers last summer could have been predicted. Perhaps it was as forthcoming as an overhand right from Larry Holmes.

After all, any soccer team that unwittingly allows its indoor and outdoor seasons to overlap is asking for trouble. That's trouble as in 11 wins and 19 losses . . . trouble as in "no playoff spot, folks."

That's what happened to the Sockers last summer. Worse yet, home attendance plummeted in direct proportion to the losses. In 15 matches in San Diego's Jack Murphy Stadium, the Sockers averaged 4,684 fans.

Clearly, there is nowhere to go but up.

"I guess that's right," said Bob Bell, the team's majority owner. "We certainly intend to turn things around . . . recordwise and also in attendance."

The two go hand-in-hand, no doubt. A winning record begets good attendance. Or is it the other way around? Or both?

The Sockers intend to find out by overhauling both their roster and their marketing techniques.

To coax some of the general sporting populace back, team officials have: arranged with the local City Council for the stadium's $2 parking fee to be waived for fans arriving at games at least 90 minutes before the kickoff; moved kickoff time from 7:30 to 7 p.m. to encourage family attendance; reduced ticket prices; and arranged for live musical entertainment for tailgate parties in the parking lot.

"It's hit or miss," Bell said. "Either our attendance is going to jump dramatically or we'll miss on our approach by a mile."

A winning record is sure to stimulate the gate, especially in San Diego, where that's been the trend in other sports, too.

When the Sockers' march to the Major Indoor Soccer League championship lasted into mid-April in 1983, it doomed the first month of the North American Soccer League outdoor season.

The fans — and with sellout indoor crowds, there were many — were as exhausted as the players. When such Socker veterans as Alan Mayer and Julie Veee skipped the outdoor season entirely, and Kaz Deyna, Vidal Fernandez and Gert Wieczorkowski sat out the first month, the team's supporters also wrote off the early home schedule.

"We learned a lesson from mistakes we will never make again," Bell had said at the end of that outdoor season. "The overlap was too much. The players were burned out. It was too much."

And so, after staggering to the wire 11-19, after missing the postseason competition for the first time since 1977, a cruel lesson was learned.

Or was it? The calendar notes the Sockers will have about two weeks between the end of the NASL indoor

SAN DIEGO SOCKERS

No.	Name	Position	Age	Ht.	Wt.	Citizenship
0	Alan Mayer	GK	31	6-0	185	U.S.A.
1	Volkmar Gross	GK	36	6-3	210	West Germany
2	Martin Donnelly	D	33	5-8	160	Northern Ireland
3	Gary Collier	D	29	6-1	175	England
4	Ade Coker	F	29	5-8	150	U.S.A.
5	Paulo Moura	M	30	5-11	150	Brazil
7	Gerry O'Kane	M	29	5-10	170	Northern Ireland
8	Eric Geyer	D	33	6-0	195	West Germany
9	Lorenz Hilkes	F	33	6-0	175	West Germany
10	Kaz Deyna	M	36	5-10	160	Poland
11	Vidal Fernandez	M	26	5-9	155	U.S.A.
12	Kevin Crow	D	22	6-1	175	U.S.A.
13	Guy Newman	D	25	5-11	165	U.S.A.
14	Brian Quinn	M	23	5-9	154	Northern Ireland
15	Jean Willrich	F	31	6-1	180	West Germany
18	Hugo Perez	F	18	5-6	148	U.S.A.
20	Cha Cha Namdar	F	27	5-6	150	U.S.A.
21	Peter Skouras	F	21	5-7	130	U.S.A.
22	Julie Veee	M	34	6-1	180	U.S.A.
26	Gert Wieczorkowski	D	35	6-1	175	West Germany
33	Willy Morcillo	F	22	6-0	175	U.S.A.

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San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 280-4625

Western Div.

5-12	at	Vancouver	7:30
5-19	at	Golden Bay	8:00
5-26		Minnesota	7:00
6-3		Golden Bay	7:00
6-10	at	Toronto	3:00
6-13	at	Chicago (C)	8:00
6-16	at	Minnesota	7:00
6-22		Vancouver	7:00
6-27		Tulsa	7:00
6-30	at	Tulsa	8:00
7-11		Vancouver	7:00
7-14		Tampa Bay	7:00
7-18		Chicago	7:00
7-21		Toronto	7:00
7-25	at	New York	9:00
7-28	at	Tampa Bay	8:00
8-3	at	Minnesota	7:30
8-12		Tampa Bay	1:00
8-15	at	New York	9:00
8-19	at	Toronto	6:30
8-25		New York	7:00
8-29		Chicago	7:00
9-1		Tulsa	7:00
9-8	at	Golden Bay	8:00

championship series, of which they are a party, and the start of outdoor training camp.

The season opener is May 12 in Vancouver. It's not an overlap, but it's not ideal.

"We were supposed to have six weeks between the last indoor game and the outdoor opener," noted a Socker official. "When we asked the league why it didn't work out that way, we were told the six weeks didn't take the playoffs into account."

So, ready or not, Coach Ron Newman will start over outdoors May 12. He's indicated the club intends to release some players from the indoor roster, but hasn't decided who they will be.

Among last year's leading scorers, Gary Heale (10 goals, 3 assists in only 14 games) has moved on to Tacoma, Fernandez (7 goals, 14 assists) is out indefinitely after knee surgery and Wieczorkowski (3 goals, 7 assists) figures to be traded after being suspended for disciplinary reasons.

Kaz Deyna (15 goals, 16 assists), Ade Coker (6,4) and Hugo Perez (2,8) are back, but Newman plans to land a proven net-finder to fill Heale's shoes. Lorenz Hilkes will provide punch if he can end a string of injuries.

Veee, who has been asked to resume outdoor play because of his skills and his value as a drawing card, six-year veteran Jean Willrich, plus indoor additions Brian Quinn and Gerry O'Kane are available for midfield duty.

Martin Donnelly (a Socker since 1979), Kevin Crow, Eric Geyer, Guy Newman and Paulo Moura will make up the backline — unless one or more are traded. That situation also is a bit unsettled.

The team's deepest position appears to be goalkeeper, where Mayer, Jim Gorsek and one-time West German international Volkmar Gross are in the muster. Newman has implied he would not carry three goalies during the summer, but speculation continues on that issue. Gorsek is the lowest paid. Mayer hasn't played outdoors since '81, but also is a drawing card. Gross is the incumbent, but unlike the other two, he is not a U.S. citizen.

Added up, the Socker outdoor fortune appears to be in a state of flux. Not that the club is sold on indoor success at the expense of the outdoor game.

"We consider both games important to the franchise," Newman said. "I see the value of both. And I love both."

Sockers' coach Ron Newman has indicated some changes on the club roster, but hasn't named any names. (Photo by Steve Hasel)

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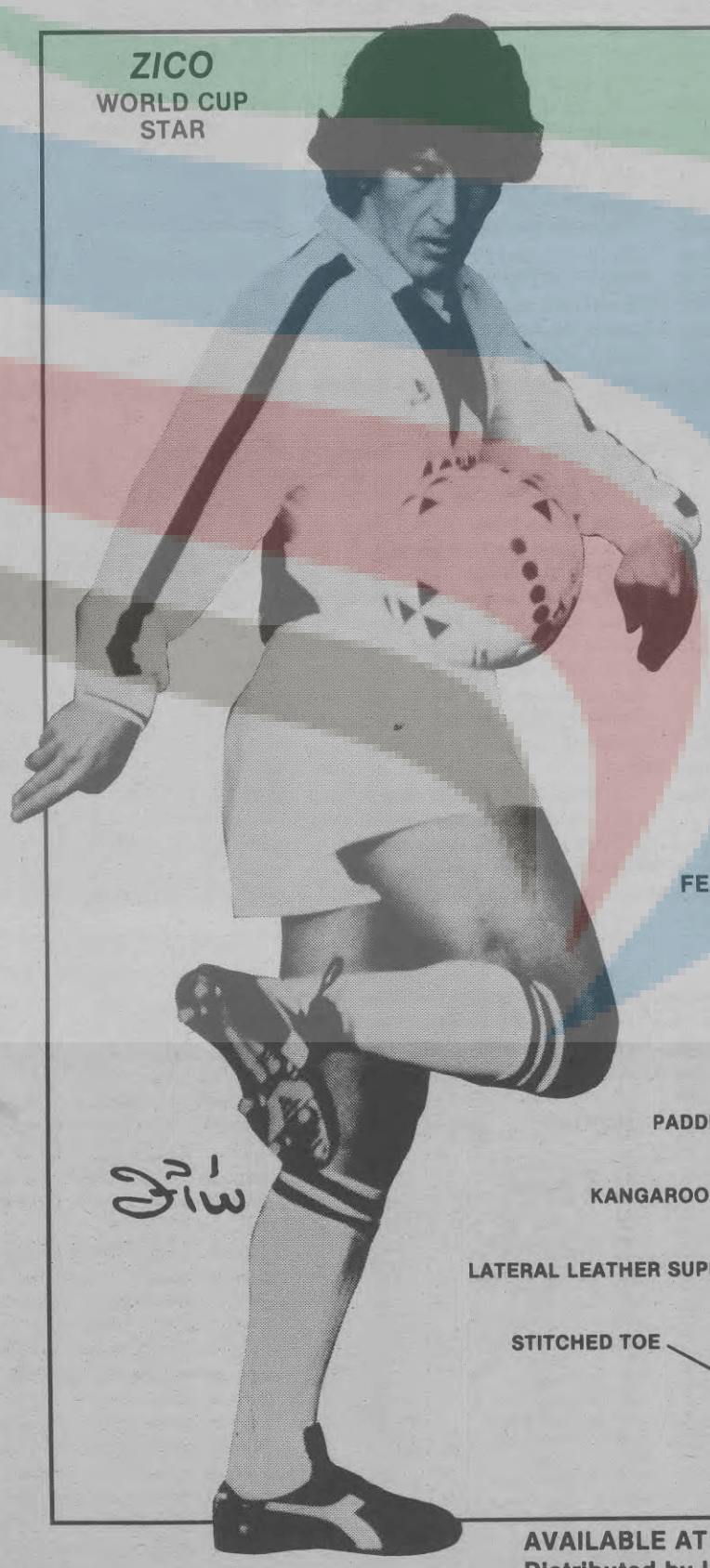

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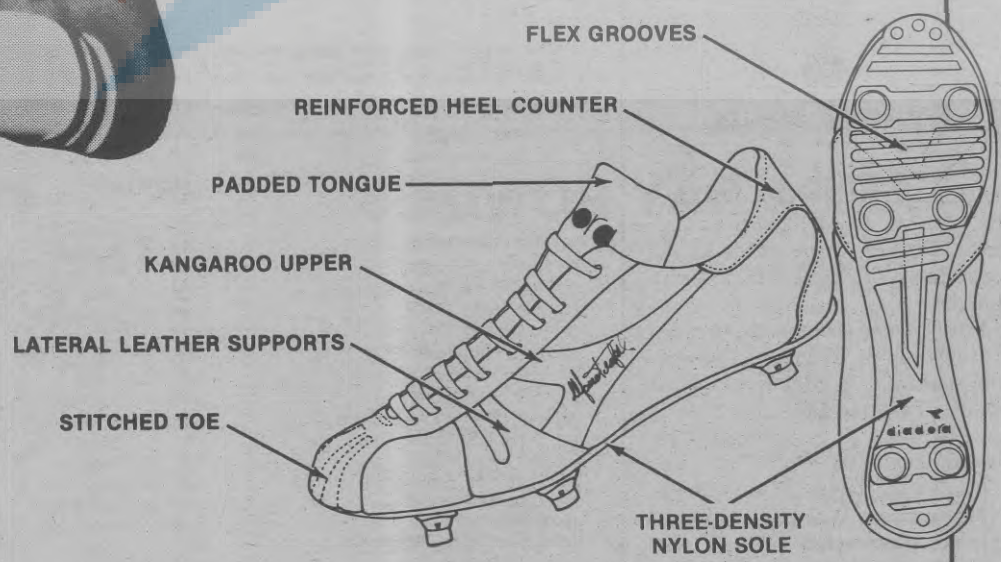

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TAMPA BAY ROWDIES

Marsh promises fans a winning team this summer

By Randy Beard

TAMPA — Upon his retirement as a player in 1979, Rodney Marsh promised the fans of the Tampa Bay Rowdies that he would return to coach the team within five years.

Sure enough, he's since fulfilled his prophecy, being hired last October — four years, one month and four days after making his McArthurish speech.

His return also came just a month before the start of the 1983-84 North American Soccer League indoor season.

Taking quick note of the little time he had to prepare his team for indoors, Marsh did a curious thing for a man considered to be the savior of a floundering franchise. He attempted to pull his team out of the indoor league. Then, when the other NASL owners forced Tampa Bay to compete, Marsh quickly predicted doom and gloom for the Rowdies under the roof and between the boards.

Doom and gloom isn't what the fans wanted to hear, of course. But again, Marsh has been proven to be a man of his word.

A team rich in indoor success, the Rowdies quickly stumbled into the league cellar and stayed there, finishing with a 9-23 record.

"I'm always honest," Marsh often says.

Not one to fret either, Marsh now perceives the failure as a mixed blessing. While he didn't enjoy the indoor season, he says he did learn from it.

And he's now promising the fans that they will be supporting a winning team this summer.

"Indoors gave me a chance to make up my mind about certain players," said Marsh. "That's the one good thing that's come out of the season . . . I would not have wanted to go into the outdoor season with the same roster that we took into the indoor season."

Most notable among the pink-slipped is midfielder Manny Rojas, last summer's leading scorer who finished in a tie with Peter Roe for the second most points indoors behind Tatu. Rojas' departure was based on economics, which has not been an uncommon reason for many of the Rowdies' releases of late. Rojas had been on loan from Chile's Catholic University, and Marsh couldn't negotiate an agreeable purchase price.

Other recent casualties include goalkeeper Jurgen Stars, defender Mark Longwell, and forward Tommy King.

The NASL's move to five North Americans on the field hurt Stars, since Marsh wants a citizen in goal. Meanwhile, Marsh elected not to keep young American players like Longwell and King because there will be no Rowdies II reserve program this season.

Three seasons of losing games and money has resulted in Marsh having to work with a bottom-line roster of only 17 players.

New owners Richard Corbett, Stella Thayer and Robert Blanchard have made it clear that they won't easily part with the green stuff.

Despite the financial hurdles in Marsh's way, it will be a changed Rowdies team that takes the field May 5 in the team's season opener at Tampa Stadium against the Minnesota Strikers.

In all, counting those who were released following the '83 outdoor season, 15 players who were around for part or all of last summer's dismal 7-23 performance won't be around this season.

More important to the fans, such all-time favorites as winger Steve Wegerle and forward Neill Roberts will be back wearing the green and yellow this summer. Wegerle and Roberts were both victims of the Rowdies' housecleaning three years ago.

Marsh also is excited about the potential of Wegerle's younger brother, Roy. The Rowdies' and the NASL's No. 1 draft choice in December, Roy Wegerle was a two-time, first-team All-American forward at the University of South Florida. He came on strong late in the indoor season. "If he'd shown in practice what he showed in games, Roy would have played much earlier," said Marsh. "He's going to be a great player for us."

A healthy Wes McLeod should also be back on the field for Tampa Bay after successful groin surgery in West Germany during the indoor season.

Meanwhile, Tampa Bay has also signed midfielder/defender Dave Power, who played for Marsh when he was coaching the Carolina Lightnin' of the American Soccer League. Power is a three-time ASL all-star who has played for two ASL championship teams.

The Rowdies' roster has also been bolstered by the return of three Team America loaners — goalkeeper Arnie Mausser and midfielders Perry Van Der Beck and Pedro DeBrito.

DeBrito's homecoming may be short-lived, though.

Marsh has reportedly agreed to trade the NASL's 1982 rookie of the year to New York for defender Refik Kozic and cash. The only snag in the deal involves how much cash the Rowdies should receive for the former University of Connecitcut star.

It should be noted that Marsh could have had Kozic for the price of a new contract if he had signed the Yugoslavian as a free agent prior to the indoor season. Kozic is a four-year Rowdie veteran.

Meanwhile, Marsh has been trying to balance the ledger by trading "one of our better players" to Minnesota for midfielder Ray Hudson. Reportedly, the deal involves defender Frantz Mathieu, whom Marsh signed as a free agent early in the indoor season.

Steve Wegerle (#14), all-time favorite winger, will return to the Rowdies this year, accompanied by brother Roy. (Photo by Tom Guidotti)

Another former Rowdie, goalkeeper Winston DuBose, could also be headed back to Tampa, while newcomers to the team could include midfielder Tony Towers and forward Stuart Lee.

Above all else, Marsh promises an offensive team. If he gets the players he's after, he says he may even play a 3-4-3 system. "If we keep possession of the ball, we won't have to worry about playing defense," he said.

Two outdoor exhibition matches in late March may indicate that better days really are ahead. The Rowdies beat the Canadian National Team 2-1 and Minnesota 4-0.

The Rowdies will round out their pre-season training with a week in England. Games have been scheduled against Hull City April 8 and Leeds United April 10 with a possible match against Queens Park Rangers April 14.

"The trip will be a very difficult test for us," said Marsh, who as a player led the Rowdies to the '78 and '79 Soccer Bowls and as a coach guided Carolina to the American Soccer League championship in 1981. "It's the middle of the season for those teams, while we'll be in pre-season form. But I fully expect the team to do well.

"The players who step off the plane in Tampa April 15 will represent a new beginning for the Rowdies," said Marsh.

If you recall, the first-time around — back in 1975 — the Rowdies won the NASL championship.

After a cumulative outdoor record of 34-60 the past three years, Rowdies fans aren't expecting Marsh to be a miracle worker. They would be pleased just to be able to support a team that wins more games than it loses.

TAMPA BAY ROWDIES

No.	Name	Position	Age	Ht.	Wt.	Citizenship
0	Arnie Mausser	GK	30	6-1	197	U.S.A.
1	Jurgen Stars	GK	35	6-0	174	West Germany
2	Gregg Thompson	D	23	5-9	165	U.S.A.
3	Glenn Myernick	D	30	5-10	183	U.S.A.
5	Frantz Mathieu	D	32	5-10	160	Haiti
6	Mike Connell	D	27	6-0	160	South Africa
7	Steve Wegerle	F	30	5-9	152	South Africa
8	Wes McLeod	M	26	5-9	149	Canada
10	Tatu	F	22	5-7	158	Brazil
12	Perry Van Der Beck	M	23	6-0	152	U.S.A.
14	Flemming Lund	M	31	5-7	150	Denmark
15	Peter Roe	D	28	5-8	150	Canada
16	Pedro DeBrito	F	26	6-1	170	U.S.A.
17	Roy Wegerle	F	20	5-11	170	South Africa
18	Mark Karpun	F	20	6-1	165	Canada
19	Neill Roberts	F	30	6-2	175	South Africa
24	David Power	M/D	30			U.S.A.

Tampa Bay Rowdies
2222 North Westshore Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33607
(813) 877-7800

TAMPA BAY		Eastern Div.
5-5		Minnesota 8:00
5-13	at	New York 3:00
5-18		Vancouver 8:00
5-26		New York 8:00
5-28	at	Minnesota 7:00
6-1		Chicago 8:00
6-3	at	Chicago (W) 1:30
6-9	at	Tulsa 8:00
6-22		Toronto 8:00
6-30	at	Golden Bay 8:00
7-4		Golden Bay 7:00
7-8	at	Toronto 6:30
7-11	at	New York 9:00
7-14	at	San Diego 7:00
7-18		Minnesota 8:00
7-21		Tulsa 8:00
7-28		San Diego 8:00
8-12	at	San Diego 1:00
8-15	at	Vancouver 7:30
8-18		Tulsa 8:00
8-26	at	Vancouver 7:30
8-29		Golden Bay 8:00
9-7		Chicago 8:00
9-9	at	Toronto 6:30

Why only Uhlsport goalie gloves meet Shep Messing's rugged standards

By Shep Messing

Shep Messing is the goalkeeper and current player-coach for the New York Arrows.

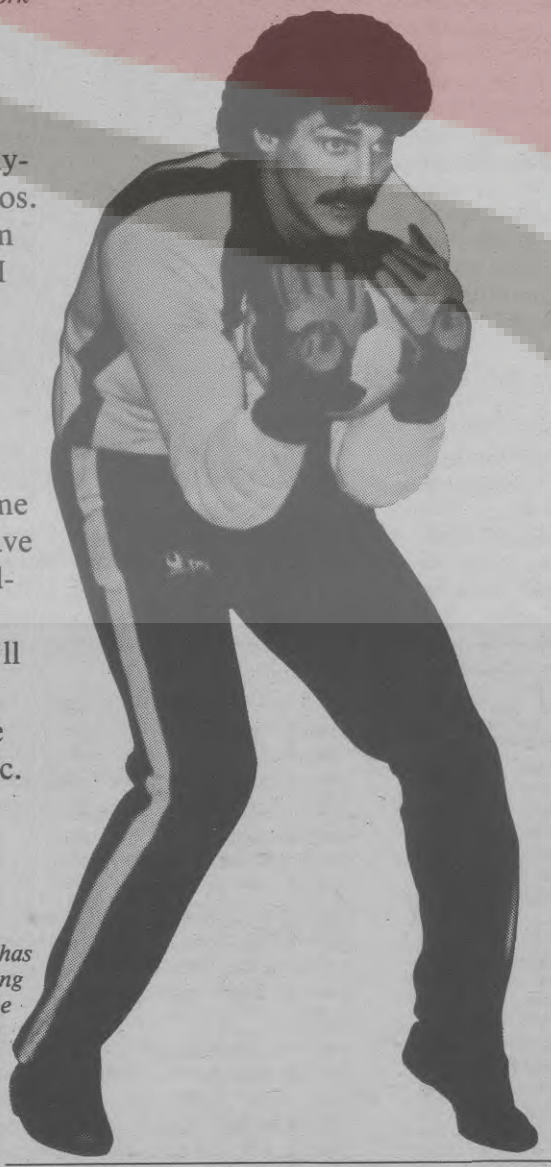
I got my first pair of Uhlsport gloves from Franz Beckenbauer when I was playing for the New York Cosmos. He brought back a pair from Germany for me. Actually, I think I was one of the first goalies in the NASL to use gloves at all. And only Uhlsport meets my rugged standards of excellence.

When Beckenbauer gave me those first gloves, he also gave me an important piece of advice. "They're not magic gloves," he told me. "They'll only work if you get your hands on the ball first." He was right. They're not magic. But I know when I get my hands on the ball, Uhlsport will help me keep them there.

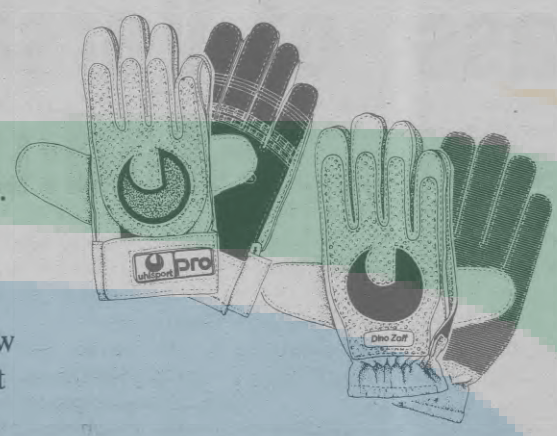
I demand excellence in my equipment. I am a pro, and what shoes are to my teammates, goalie gloves are to me. Uhlsport meets those standards. And I do require a lot.

My gloves must be flexible . . . I don't even want to know they're there. They should just feel like an extension of my hand.

Then my gloves have to be durable. I play soccer for keeps and my gloves have to do the same. Plus I want a grip that can be adjusted for different conditions. A wet, soggy field needs a very different glove than a hard, dry artificial surface.



Shep Messing has been the leading spokesperson for the American goalie in pro soccer.



Three out of four professional goalkeepers in the U.S. wear Uhlsport gloves.

Uhlsport has so many different gloves, 21 models in all, that they almost have a glove to suit my every mood. It is true, we goalkeepers are a little crazy. One night I might want to wear an all-black glove (and my opponents better watch out). Another night I might want to wear a white glove with green trim.

Uhlsport combines fashion with function, and most of the top goalkeepers of the world agree with me because they wear Uhlsport, too. In fact the Uhlsport "family" includes the elite goalkeepers of the U.S. and the world.

You couldn't pay me enough to use a product that's not the best. Because my career and my team's performance depend on it.

Over the years I've tried virtually every other goalie glove that has come on the market. If there was one better, I would be wearing it. It's interesting because we goalies are very conscientious. In this case, not just about the techniques of goalkeeping, but the technology as well. And Uhlsport has been the vanguard of technological developments. They keep improving the design and increasing the durability and flexibility.

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TORONTO BLIZZARD

Blizzard returns to the 'green, green grass' of Varsity Stadium

By Colin Jose

TORONTO — The Toronto Blizzard will open their 1984 season in much the same way as they ended the 1983 season — by playing the Tulsa Roughnecks. In the intervening months things have changed in Toronto, not so much in terms of player personnel or coaching staff, but in terms of restructuring of the front office, the location of the club's offices and the stadium in which the team will play.

It's a return to the green, green grass of home for Toronto this year, and all the players in the league — not only the Blizzard players — will welcome the return to Varsity Stadium and the move away from the horrendous artificial turf of Exhibition Stadium. The move required relocating club offices from Exhibition Stadium to a location near Varsity Stadium. Improvements were also made in the ticket offices, press box and dressing rooms at Varsity Stadium.

Though general manager Tommy Scallen left the club at the end of last season to return to Minnesota, he has not been replaced and there has been a general reduction in the front office staff.

On the field, Coach Bob Houghton will leave well-enough alone, and at this time it seems that there will be very few changes in the Blizzard lineup. Goalkeeper Jan Moller has returned to his native Sweden to play for his old club Malmo and to pursue a career in banking. He has been replaced by veteran North American Soccer League goalkeeper Paul Hammond, who stood between the sticks for Team America last season.

Also missing from last season's lineup are Canadian defender Victor Kodelja and South African striker Neill Roberts. Kodelja moved to Chicago and Roberts to Tampa Bay.

Seven Canadian players were in the starting lineup at times last season, and the Blizzard will continue its Canadianization policy in 1984.

As Houghton explained, "we've got to play our young Canadians. It's no good having them and not playing them. They are all challenging for first team places and that is why we haven't gone into the transfer market."

Houghton's main problem this year, in fact, may be that he will not be able to field a settled team for long, due to international calls. Currently, the Blizzard has six players on the Canadian national team, including team captain Bruce Wilson. Should Canada qualify for the Olympic finals and be allowed to use professionals, then Houghton will have his problems. Canada also has an international against Italy coming up in May, and a visit to China in June.

"We will play the same sytem and same style as we used at the end of last year," said Houghton, which means that Roberto Bettega will play behind the front two strikers. David Byrne, who has spent the winter playing on loan to Estoril of the Portuguese First Division, will almost certainly be one of those strikers, but with Neill Roberts gone, Byrne will have a new partner.

Just who this striker will be is now a subject for speculation in Toronto, but Houghton indicated that a new striker will be signed and that he will be British. A recent newspaper report claimed that Sheffield Wednesday striker Imre Varadi was on his way to the Blizzard, while other players who have been mentioned are Kenny Dalglish of Liverpool and Ian Wallace of Notts Forest. For now, the club is maintaining its silence.

The club has also invited three South African players for tryouts. They are Fonda Ntsoelengoe, younger brother of Blizzard midfielder Ace Ntsoelengoe, Meshack "Touch" Mokwebu, and John Paskin. The younger Ntsoelengoe plays for the Kaiser Chiefs, Mokwebu for the Dion Cosmos and Paskin for Hellenic. One South African who won't be back is the popular Jomo Sono, who according to club president Clive Toye "has serious weight problems due to injuries suffered in 1981 and 1982."

It will also be a busy season on the international circuit for the Blizzard with seven top international teams playing in the city. The international schedule opens May 21 against Ajax of Amsterdam and continues against Barcelona (May 30), Stuttgart (June 13), Glasgow Rangers (June 15), Gremio (July 29), Benfica (Aug. 5) and Juventus (Aug. 8). The games against Stuttgart and Rangers will be part of an international tournament, and the Blizzard-Rangers game will be played at Ivor Wynne Stadium in nearby Hamilton.

Before the season starts the Blizzard will play three games in Italy — one of them almost certainly against Juventus. It all adds up to a hectic schedule, and close to 4,000 season tickets sold. Last year, about 800 season tickets were sold.

The move to Varsity Stadium already seems to be having very positive results.

Coach Bob Houghton plans to leave well-enough alone on the field this season. (Photo by Milton Crossen)

TORONTO BLIZZARD

No.	Name	Position	Age	Ht.	Wt.	Citizenship
0	Sven Habermann	GK	22	6-3	204	Canada
1	Paul Hammond	GK	28	6-1	196	U.S.A.
2	Bruce Wilson	D	32	5-10	155	Canada
4	Conny Karlsson	D	30	6-1	190	Sweden
5	Jimmy Nicholl	M	28	5-10	165	Canada
8	Ace Ntsoelengoe	M	32	5-9	155	South Africa
10	Cliff Calvert	M/D	29	5-10	170	Canada
11	Roberto Bettega	F	34	6-1	172	Italy
12	Pasquale Deluca	M	21	5-9	150	Canada
14	Geoff Wegerle	F	29	5-8	153	South Africa
15	Paul James	M	20	5-10	153	Wales
16	Randy Ragan	M	24	5-11	163	Canada
17	Derek Spalding	D	30	5-9	180	U.S.A.
19	David Byrne	F	24	5-11	160	England
20	Charlie Falzon	M	23	5-9	150	Canada
21	Trevor McCallum	D	20	6-0	180	England
24	Colin Miller	M	19	5-8	165	Canada

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5-13		Tulsa	3:00
5-19	at	Tulsa	8:00
6-3		Minnesota	3:00
6-10		San Diego	3:00
6-17	at	New York	3:00
6-22	at	Tampa Bay	8:00
6-24		Chicago	6:30
6-27		New York	8:00
7-1		Vancouver	6:30
7-4	at	Chicago (tba)	1:30
7-8		Tampa Bay	6:30
7-11	at	Golden Bay	8:00
7-15	at	Vancouver	7:30
7-18		Vancouver	8:00
7-21	at	San Diego	7:00
8-12		Golden Bay	6:30
8-17	at	Minnesota	7:30
8-19		San Diego	6:30
8-22	at	Chicago (C)	8:00
8-25	at	Golden Bay	8:00
8-30	at	Tulsa	8:00
9-3		Minnesota	6:30
9-5	at	New York	9:00
9-9		Tampa Bay	6:30

TULSA ROUGHNECKS

Do Roughnecks seem unchanged? Former players say 'look again'

Barry Wallace (#1), NASL indoor/outdoor all-star defender, has signed a new contract with the Tulsa Roughnecks. (Photo by Steve Hasel)

Photo by Steven J. Jennings

Former Roughnecks general manager Noel Lemon is back with the Tulsa club, in the same post he vacated almost two years ago.

By Richard Linihan

TULSA — The Tulsa Roughnecks will open their outdoor season May 13 in Toronto in what appears to be a rematch of the 1983 Soccer Bowl.

Look again.

This is not the same Roughnecks team that beat the Blizzard 2-0 to win the North American Soccer League championship.

Since that day, Oct. 1, United Cable Television took over the Roughnecks' new franchise when the old owners folded their tents in January. Tulsa Cable, a sister subsidiary of United Cable, is running the soccer team.

Former Roughnecks general manager Noel Lemon is back in the hot seat he vacated almost two years ago and, as GM again, is in the process of giving the soccer team a new identity through releases of players and coaches.

There will be plenty of new faces on the sidelines outdoors.

Njego Pesa, the Most Valuable Player of Soccer Bowl '83 became a free agent and went to the New York Arrows and then on to the St. Louis Steamers of the Major Indoor Soccer League.

The Roughnecks also have released eight players since Oct. 1. Zequinha, Thompson Usiyan, Iraj Danaifard, Pasquale Fuccilo, Ivan Belfiore, Gerry Reardon, Paul Coffee and David Kemp were given their walking papers. Kemp was the only one that was not on the Soccer Bowl roster.

Zequinha, the Roughnecks' second leading scorer indoors, was picked up immediately by Tacoma of the MISL.

"I saw it coming with the change in management," said Usiyan. "You have to be able to kick and fight on this team and that's not my style. You can see that with them letting 'Z' and Iraj go.

"Maybe they will be getting an all-Irish team."

Other deletions from the Soccer Bowl include head coach Terry Hennessey, who quit during this indoor season to move to Australia, where his wife's parents live and also where Hennessey's son plays soccer.

His assistant coach, Steve Earle, took over as head coach for the indoor season Nov. 16, hiring former Fort Lauderdale Striker Keith Weller as his assistant. Neither Earle nor Weller have been retained for the outdoor season. Weller since has been hired as head coach for the American Soccer League's Fort Lauderdale franchise.

"I would not have taken the outdoor job if they had offered it to me," Earl said. "I basically just trained the team and that's all. I had no say on the players I wanted, their contracts or the budget. I did the same job I was doing when I was Terry's [Hennessey] assistant."

Lemon said everyone knew Earle's was an interim position since the day Hennessey went down under.

"We explained that up front," Lemon said. "We have appreciated Steve and Keith hanging in there with us. Steve didn't have much of a chance. The team he had didn't play very well. It is no reflection on him as a coach. We would recommend him for another head coaching position."

Lemon said the Roughnecks have about 10 applications for the Tulsa head coach position and that Tulsa Cable is considering others besides. He did say that Hennessey was not among them, though he was rumored on his way back. Some of the applications, according to Lemon, are from coaches with NASL experience.

"Terry Hennessey will not be the new coach," Lemon said.

More moves in the near future have been hinted. Winston DuBose, the first American goalkeeper to win Soccer Bowl, has been given permission to speak to the Tampa Bay Rowdies to try to work out a deal. He has talked to Tampa coach Rodney Marsh, a teammate of DuBose's for three years in Tampa, about playing there this outdoor season. If DuBose is traded or sold, that would mean Tulsa would be in the market for a goalkeeper, since Coffee, the only other goalkeeper on the roster, was released this week.

Speculation about other trades has arisen concerning several top-notch Roughnecks. Among those are all-time Tulsa leading scorer Laurie Abrahams, NASL indoor/outdoor all-star defender Barry Wallace and defender Terry Moore.

None of the three has signed a new contract and negotiations have been broken off with Abrahams.

Asked how negotiations stood a month ago, the last time he talked with Tulsa management, Abrahams said, "Let's put it this way, their offices open at 8 a.m. and I'm not down there breaking down the door in the morning."

Lemon then retaliated with: "He said he was not beating down the door to sign with us. Well, we're not beating down his door either. We

(Continued on page 20)

DOES HOWARD SAMUELS MAKE THE GRADE?

By Ruth Leigh

In the beginning

The atmosphere prior to his stepping into the presidency was one of chaos, according to San Diego Sockers' owner, Bob Bell.

"It was the old story of the captain steering the boat with no one working the engine room," said Bell. "Phil [Woosnam] worked very hard as a missionary for the game. He was the pioneer, but he neglected the business end of soccer."

"Before Howard took over, there was no long-term planning. It was up to the owners to find their own individual direction with very little business leadership from the top," said Tim Robbie, speaking on behalf of Minnesota owner, Elizabeth Robbie.

"He took over a rapidly deteriorating situation and helped put on the brakes. Phil was a soccer man who knew and understood the game yet in spite of that, we were going in a negative direction."

"Samuels saw enormous growth in soccer on a youth level while on a professional level, we were close to failure," continued Robbie. "I had to ask myself, how can we change this?"

Samuels took over the job, he says, for the love of sports and the love of a challenge; but the challenge proved far greater than he anticipated. A confessed workaholic, he didn't expect to spend 60 to 70 hours a week on the job, flying from city to city, dealing with crisis after crisis.

"Ninety-eight percent of what Howard has done in the past two years has been problem solving in one way or another," observed Carl Berg, owner of the Golden Bay Earthquakes. "He's had to deal with putting out fires instead of moving ahead."

Samuels' successes. . .

What exactly do the owners credit Samuels with accomplishing?

"Howard has made sure that the league is run like a business. I give him an A + + in time and dedication and an A in accomplishing his basic business objectives," said Bell.

Robbie agreed. "He's not a soccer man, but that's not what we needed. We needed a businessman." Berg concurred, pointing out that Samuels' primary focus was to stabilize and reduce costs while bringing in a sound business atmosphere. "He's made real progress here."

Samuels began with a "wish list" of desired goals. It included developing a sound business plan, cutting costs, turning losses around, improving management techniques, establishing stability, developing television interest, increasing attendance, bringing in major sponsors and Americanizing the game.

He began by evaluating each franchise, their strengths and weaknesses. He let the owners know that survival depended on playing both indoor and outdoor soccer. Robbie said he took a strong "get out or give it a shot" stand.

The results of his business plan have been a reduction in club costs — $1 million per club — said Samuels, and a cost-cut of one-third in the league office where Samuels trimmed the staff down to a crew that has his confidence.

Stability is next on his list of accomplishments. "We now have owners who are capable of running their clubs and clubs who can pay their bills," said Berg. "And with stability comes the fans and increased attendance."

. . . and failures

What Samuels hasn't accomplished is obvious. "We failed to develop television, which I see as three to five years down the road and without that, we're still a minor league sport," he admitted. And relations between the USSF and a much-discussed merger with the MISL are also listed by Samuels as failures. "I've made a sincere effort in these areas and failed."

> ***"We failed to develop television, which I see as three to five years down the road and without that, we're still a minor league sport."***
>
> ***—Howard Samuels***

> ***"I give him an A + + in time and dedication and an A in accomplishing his basic business objectives."***
>
> ***—Bob Bell***

The future

The outlook, though, is optimistic among some of the owners . . . but not among all of them. Several refused to comment, which can only lead to speculation as to their approval of Samuels.

But from Bell, Berg and Robbie, he has their vote of confidence. "In retrospect, I don't know if God Almighty could have done a better job than Howard under the circumstances. I don't know if Howard will stay on. He's crazy to put in the hours he has. But I don't think he'll walk away until there's a definite upward swing.

"By next November, either we won't exist, or we'll have put it all together," predicted Bell.

"We hit rock bottom and now we're coming back up. I think Howard underestimated the time and effort involved, but if he wants to stay on, we'd love to have him," said Robbie.

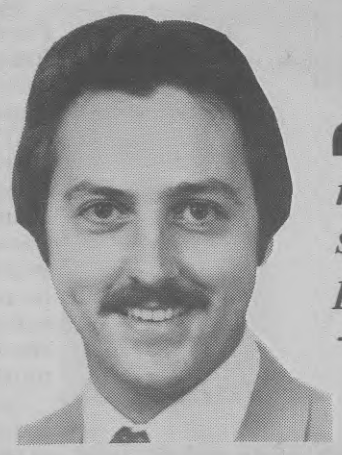
Berg sees Samuels as the one man who can accomplish more than anyone else. "I'd like to see Howard continue. Personally, I think he's done a fantastic job, but I know there are other things he'd like to do."

Among the other things Samuels hopes to do is to continue his political and civic activities. He's a partner in one of the country's largest consulting firms, he serves as the vice chairman for the Center for National Policy, a "think tank" run by Cyrus Vance, and he's working closely with Democratic presidential hopeful, Gary Hart.

Speaking on his desire to continue with the league, Samuels modestly concluded, "With my usual humility, I think the sport would suffer without me. I want to build one of the great sports of tomorrow."

Soccer fans will just have to wait until tomorrow to find out.

> ***"Ninety-eight percent of what Howard has done in the past two years has been problem solving in one way or another"***
>
> ***—Carl Berg***



> ***"He took over a rapidly deteriorating situation and helped put on the brakes."***
>
> ***—Tim Robbie***

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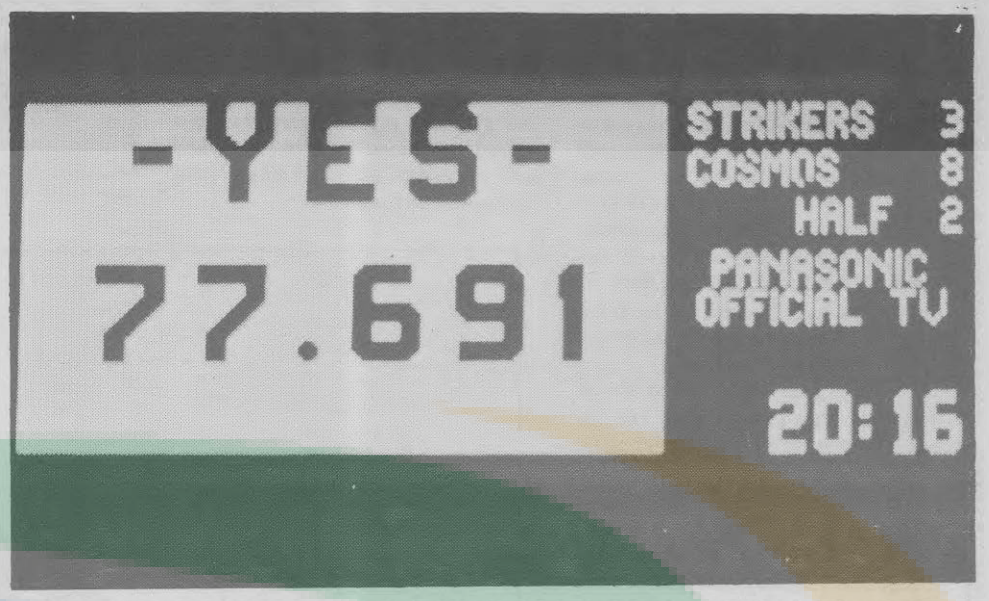

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Continued from page 17)

have plans to adhere to, and if Laurie doesn't want to help the team move forward . . . any player that doesn't want to help, won't be here."

Abrahams then said this week: "I've put a sign on my door, 'Out to Lunch' for two weeks."

DuBose is in much the same situation.

"There has been no negotiating with Noel," DuBose said. "I don't know why, but with new owners and management, players have to expect changes and accept them."

Lemon knows why there have been no negotiations.

"Before I was acting general manager, I met with each player and asked about their contracts, and would they be willing to renegotiate their contracts down to reasonable amounts to save the club," Lemon said. "In Winston's case, I was surprised he was so cooperative, and he said he would be willing to do anything he could to help. Two or three days later I heard stories from the players that Winston was not going to take a pay cut.

"I called him in and asked him if that were true and he said, yes, he had changed his mind. I felt he made a commitment to me and we kept our side of the bargain, saving the club, giving the payers their back pay and half of their playoff bonuses. He reneged on the deal, and I didn't see any point in any further conversations."

Wallace is the one player the Roughnecks would really like to sign.

"We have had four or five conversations with Barry Wallace," Lemon said. "I've spent considerable time and effort, more than with all the other players combined. The last session with him lasted four hours. I've never done that with any player in my life."

Tulsa currently has 12 players available, eight of whom have signed contracts. The eight are Billy Caskey, Victor Moreland, David Bradford, Adam Krupa, Val Fernandes, Chance Fry, Brian Schmetzer and Ron Futcher. The four who haven't signed are DuBose, Wallace, Abrahams and Moore.

One player who has talked with the Roughnecks about returning to Tulsa is former Roughnecks Chris McGrath, who is playing in Hong Kong.

The Roughnecks have also changed their colors from red, black and white to yellow and blue.

"It will be awful hard for the officials to get mad at a bunch of guys in yellow uniforms," said Lemon.

Editor's note: Since the writing of this preview, the Roughnecks have signed a new coach, Wim Suurbier, and re-signed Barry Wallace to a one-year contract.

TULSA ROUGHNECKS

No.	Name	Position	Age	Ht.	Wt.	Citizenship
0	Winston DuBose	GK	28	6-2	177	U.S.A.
1	Zeljko Bilecki	GK	33	6-1	185	Canada
2	Terry Moore	D	25	6-0	172	Canada
3	Barry Wallace	D	24	5-10	155	England
4	David Bradford	F	30	5-5	140	England
5	Val Fernandes	D	26	5-9	155	U.S.A.
6	Keith Weller	F	37	5-10	160	England
8	Ron Futcher	F	28	5-11	180	England
12	Billy Caskey	F	29	5-11	170	Northern Ireland
14	Laurie Abrahams	F	31	5-10	160	England
16	Brian Schmetzer	D	21	5-11	165	U.S.A.
17	Adam Krupa	D	32	5-8	150	Poland
18	Victor Moreland	D	26	6-0	165	Northern Ireland
19	Chance Fry	F	19	6-1	165	U.S.A.

Tulsa Roughnecks
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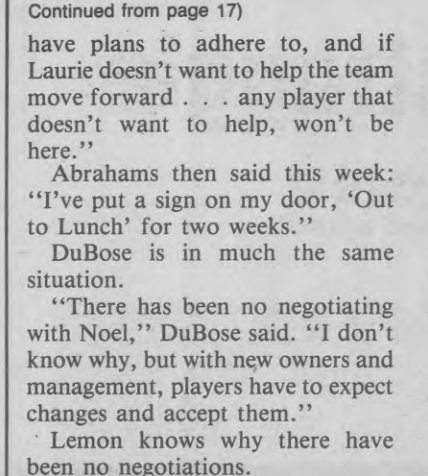
Tulsa, OK 74145
(918) 663-1133

Western Div.

5-13	at	Toronto	3:00
5-19		Toronto	8:00
5-25	at	Chicago (C)	8:00
6-3	at	Vancouver	7:30
6-9		Tampa Bay	8:00
6-15		Vancouver	8:00
6-17	at	Chicago (C)	1:30
6-22		Golden Bay	8:00
6-24	at	New York	3:00
6-27	at	San Diego	7:00
6-30		San Diego	8:00
7-8	at	Golden Bay	4:00
7-14		New York	7:30
7-21	at	Tampa Bay	8:00
7-25	at	Golden Bay	8:00
7-28		Minnesota	8:00
8-16		Chicago	8:00
8-18	at	Tampa Bay	8:00
8-22	at	Minnesota	7:30
8-25		Minnesota	8:00
8-30		Toronto	8:00
9-1	at	San Diego	7:00
9-6		Vancouver	8:00
9-8		New York	8:00



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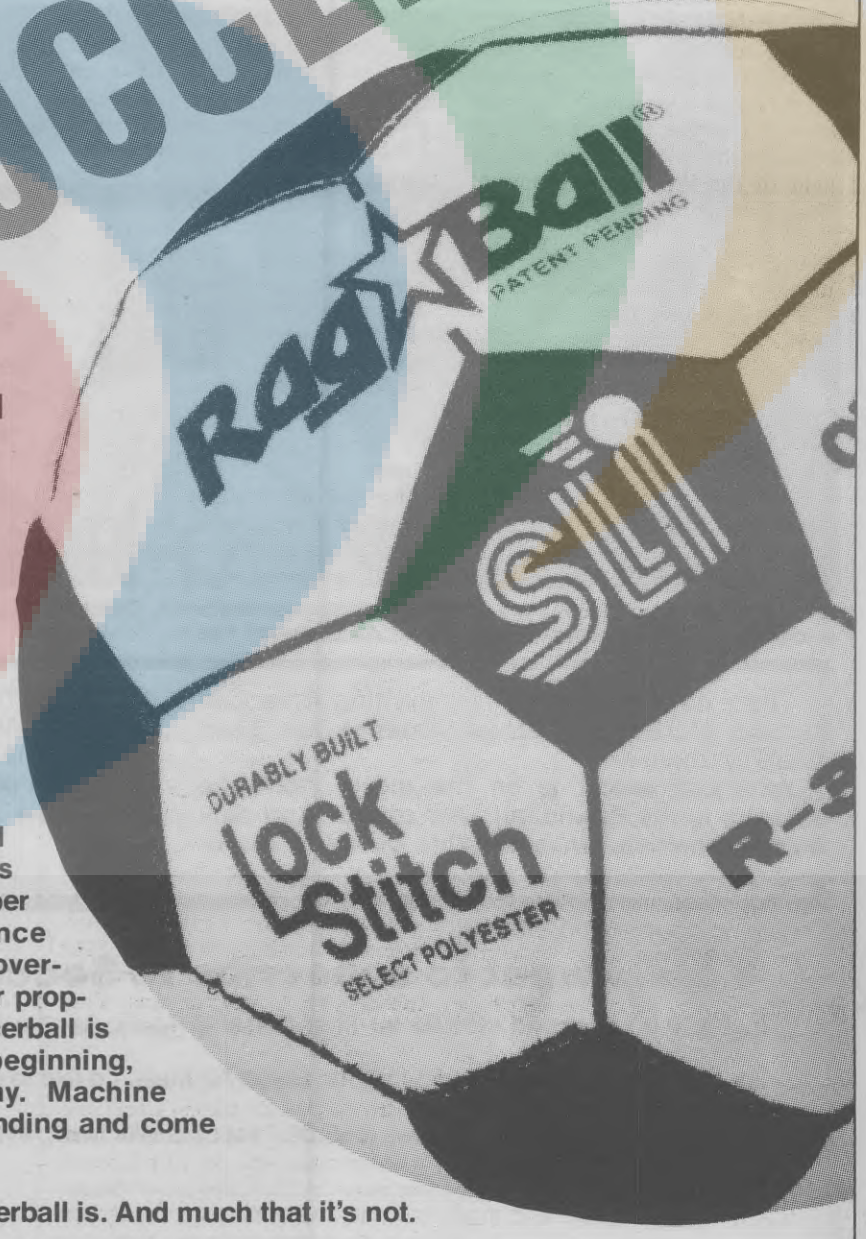

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VANCOUVER WHITECAPS

'Caps may face struggle to win favor of fans

By Jeff Cross

VANCOUVER — The big questions are whether or not the Vancouver Whitecaps can overcome a dramatic front-office overhaul laced with media claims of scandal and a much-less-than-adequate indoor season to regain the favor of their supporters.

Early indications are that they can — though it will be a struggle — and a good number of fans will want proof before they make that ticket-buying decision.

Approximately 7,000 season tickets have been sold to date. And most observers of the soccer scene here consider that pretty impressive, in light of the Whitecaps' winter of discontent.

Gone in the backlash of alleged wrongdoing are president/general manager Peter Bridgwater (now at Golden Bay), head coach John Giles (now manager of England's West Bromwich Albion), assistant coaches Peter Lorimer (to Leeds United) and Nobby Stiles (to join Giles), trainer George Wright, assistant general manager and marketing manager Don Rogelstad — and various other office personnel.

And, of course, there's a new majority owner. He's oil-rich J. Bob Carter, a man with lots of dollars but — ominously — no soccer background.

Carter's right-hand man is new general manager Colin Fleming, brought over from Carter's business empire to straighten out what is obviously a financial mess.

Soccer business will be in the hands of new head coach Alan Hinton, a Vancouver favorite from his days as assistant coach — and reluctant player — here in 1978, when he set a still-standing North American Soccer League record of 30 assists with those immaculate left-foot crosses from the wing.

He'll be assisted by Derek Possee, another former Whitecap player who has had the unenviable job of coaching the Caps through an acrimonious, and largely unwanted indoor season.

The Whitecaps lineup will bear much the same stamp as in previous campaigns. With the exception of 1976 and part of 1977, when German Eckhard Krautzun held the reins, the Caps have been guided by Britons — Jim Easton, Tony Waiters, Bob McNab, John Giles (Irish but English-oriented) and now Hinton.

Thus the basics will remain largely the same, maybe a half-dozen personnel changes marking the shift from one British-style coach to another.

Not that that's bad. The Whitecaps have had an enviable string of successes in NASL play during those years — the major failure being an inability to solve the problems of playoff soccer.

Gone from the playing-staff in addition to Lorimer are centerback Dave Watson (to struggling Derby County), striker Alan Taylor (to Hull City), striker Peter Beardsley (to Newcastle United), midfielder Arno Steffenhagen (who was here only because of a spate of injuries late last season), striker Terry Felix (the native Indian who was cut from the roster) and both of last season's goalies, Canadian Tino Lettieri (sold to Minnesota) and American P.J. Johns (cut).

There is also doubt about Dutch midfielder Frans Thijssen, currently playing on loan with England's Nottingham Forest, but still a Vancouver property.

At press time Hinton was in England on a major recruiting drive to fill the gaps. His announced targets: a top-class goalie, an established sweeper and either one or two "take-charge-type" midfielders (depending on whether Thijssen comes back).

Guesses have abounded in the Vancouver media (until both daily newspapers went on strike at the end of March), but how close the guesses are to being correct is not yet known. Most prominent names mentioned are players who played with Hinton in Seattle — goalie Joe Corrigan, midfielder Kenny Hibbit, defender Kevin Bond and others. Add to those familiar names those of Arsenal goalie Pat Jennings, Derby veteran Colin Todd, Wolves goalie Peter Burridge and Wolves centerback Alan Dodd and you have an idea of the scope of Hinton's mission.

The Vancouver attack, surprisingly, appears to be reasonably set with David Cross returning from a winter with Oldham Athletic to join Peter Ward and Carl Valentine. The other holdover imports are Irish midfielders Mick Martin and Fran O'Brien and Irish stopper Pierce O'Leary.

The Whitecaps will have their usual quota of competent Canadians led by ageless Bobby Lenarduzzi, who has been with the club since its inception in 1974. Defenders Shaun Lowther, Mike Sweeny, Ian Bridge and Paul Nelson, plus American citizen Mark Nickeas and midfielder David Norman just about round out the returnees. Vancouverite Chris Turner was picked up during the indoor season, then signed to a one-year outdoor term. He'll be backup to the goalie Hinton signs in Britain.

Mostly, it's the same blend as before, with the key ingredients still to come from Britian.

Bob Lenarduzzi (#5), shown here chasing down the Cosmos Angelo DiBernardo, who has been with the Whitecaps since the team's inception in 1974, will be returning for another outdoor season. (Photo by N. R. Rowan)

VANCOUVER WHITECAPS

No.	Name	Position	Age	Ht.	Wt.	Citizenship
2	Shaun Lowther	D	22	5-8	155	Canada
4	Mark Nickeas	D	26	5-11	160	U.S.A.
5	Bob Lenarduzzi	D	28	5-10	160	Canada
6	David Norman	M	21	5-7	150	Canada
7	Fran O'Brien	M	31	5-8	140	Ireland
8	Mike Sweeney	M	25	5-8	155	Canada
10	Peter Ward	F	28	5-7	145	England
12	Paul Nelson	D	24	5-8	155	Canada
15	Mick Martin	M	32	5-10	150	Ireland
18	David Houston	M	18	5-7	140	Canada
20	Pierce O'Leary	D	24	6-1	150	Ireland
21	Carl Valentine	F	25	5-9	160	England
22	Graham Brown	M	18	5-8	150	Canada
23	Rod McKay	D	18	5-7	150	Canada
29	Ian Bridge	D	24	6-1	170	Canada
30	Chris Turner	GK	22	6-1	195	Canada

Vancouver Whitecaps
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Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1R3
(604) 291-8811

Western Div.

5-12		San Diego	7:30
5-18	at	Tampa Bay	8:00
5-20	at	New York	3:00
5-23		Golden Bay	7:30
6-3		Tulsa	7:30
6-15	at	Tulsa	7:30
6-22	at	San Diego	7:00
6-24		Minnesota	7:30
6-27		Chicago	7:30
7-1	at	Toronto	6:30
7-8		New York	7:30
7-11	at	San Diego	7:00
7-15		Toronto	7:30
7-18	at	Toronto	8:00
7-21	at	Minnesota	7:00
8-12		Chicago	7:30
8-15		Tampa Bay	7:30
8-18	at	Golden Bay	8:00
8-22		Golden Bay	7:30
8-26		Tampa Bay	7:30
8-29	at	New York	8:00
9-3	at	Chicago (tba)	1:30
9-6	at	Tulsa	8:00
9-8		Minnesota	7:30

(C): Comiskey Park
(W): Wrigley Field
(tba): to be announced

George Best returns to Spartan Stadium

By Dave Payne

SAN JOSE — George Best, one of the greatest players the game of soccer has known, recently underwent controversial surgery, and will make his first visit to the United States in more than two years when he suits up for the Earthquakes alumni team in an outdoor match against the Steve Zungul-led Quakes in a reunion game on May 12 at Spartan Stadium.

Best, 37, who earned Footballer of the Year honors in England in 1968 and '69 while with Manchester United, has been working as a commentator on British soccer telecasts and playing in exhibition matches throughout the world since ending a six-year North American Soccer League career in 1981 with the Quakes.

"George can still play the game, no question about that," said Bill McMurdo, a former First Division player in Scotland who is acting as Best's agent. "We played in an exhibition for charity just the other day outside of London — our team was down 3-nil at halftime. George scored the first goal of the second half and the final goal of the match to give us a 4-3 win.

"I've played in more than 100 exhibitions with George the last three years and he is as skillful as ever."

Best said he is eagerly anticipating his return to Spartan Stadium.

"I wanted to get back to the States and San Jose to visit, but I just haven't had the chance because of all the commitments I've had for television and traveling around the world to play exhibitions in places like Hong Kong, Australia, Malaysia and Iceland.

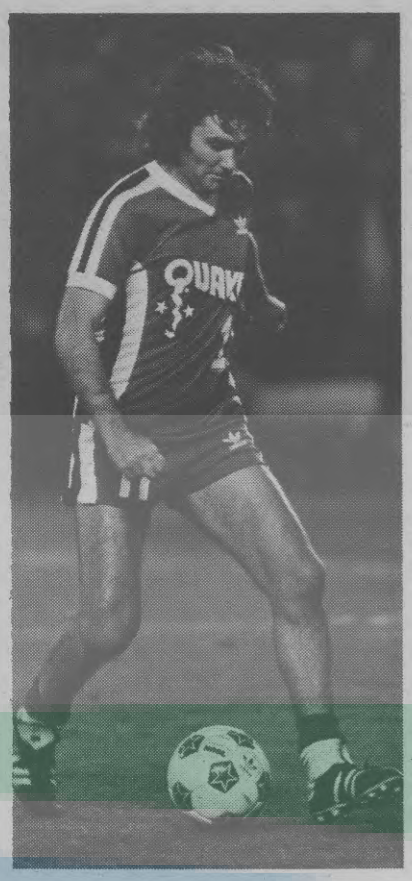
"I'm really looking forward to the reunion game and seeing many of the friends I made in San Jose. I have a lot of fond memories from playing there. Even though the team struggled result-wise, I still enjoyed playing for the Earthquakes. I don't think there was another city in America that would have given a team that kind of support with the results we were getting."

The Quakes were 9-23 in '80 and 11-21 in '81 with Best. He contributed 22 goals and 21 assists in 56 outdoor matches for San Jose. He scored the NASL's goal of the year in'81 when he dribbled through the entire Fort Lauderdale defense in the penalty area before beating goalkeeper Jan van Beveren.

In his six NASL seasons with the Los Angeles Aztecs, Fort Lauderdale and the Quakes, he had 54 goals and as many assists in 139 games.

One major opponent Best claims he has overcome since his playing days in America is alcoholism. He admitted to being an alcoholic early in 1980 and he was eventually suspended by the Quakes in March 1982 for unexcused absences related to his drinking problem.

"As you know, while I was in San Jose, I went through a few hospital



George Best returns to San Jose on May 12 for an exhibition game between Quakes alumni and the present team. (Photo by Milton Crossen)

treatments, hoping to find a solution," Best said. "They unfortunately didn't work completely. So what I did, about nine or 10 months ago, was fly to Norway and have an operation. I had an implant put in my stomach, which makes it impossible for me to drink. I have been about 10 months without a drink."

It's as if Best has subjected himself to the death penalty should he return to drinking.

"If I took one drink, I would get severe headaches and also palpitation of the heart," Best said. "If I continued, it would kill me."

Dr. John J. Prusmack, medical director of the County of Santa Clara's Bureau of Alcoholism Services, said he has heard of the implant process.

"It isn't allowed in the United States, but I understand it is being experimented with in other countries," he said. "The implant is made a half-inch or so under the skin. We have a similar program for alcoholics in the United States, but pills are used that lead to a reaction after a drink is taken. We call it Antabuse."

Best reportedly took the pills when he was being treated in San Jose, but he eventually disregarded them and returned to drinking.

Best said he would never return to playing soccer with a professional club.

"I've had a lot of teams in England ask me to come back and play — but I'm too busy with television work, making appearances and playing in exhibition games," Best said. "It's just not worth it to get involved with a club full time again.

"I'm a free agent and I can play where and when I want. It also takes a lot of pressure off me."

He played his last club soccer two years ago with Bournemouth of the English Third Division.

"The deal I had with Bournemouth was that if they would buy my contract from San Jose, I would play six games for them, then become a free agent. That's the only sort of contract I've signed with a team since leaving San Jose."

Best finished third in the voting by Earthquakes fans to select the Quakes alumni squad. Goalkeeper Mike Hewitt, who played for the club from 1976-82, received the most votes, followed by forward Paul Child (1974-79), now with the Pittsburgh Spirit of the Major Indoor Soccer League.

Other ex-Quakes who will be receiving invitations to play in the 2 p.m. game are Ilija Mitic (1975-78), Laurie Calloway (1974-77), Gary Etherington (1981-82), Johnny Moore (1974-77), Julie Veee (1976), brothers Mark and Buzz Demling (1974-78), Tony Powell (1981-82), Dave Kemp (1974-78), Jimmy McAlister (1981-83), Tony Simoes (1976-77), Mani Hernandez (1974-76), Gabo Gavric (1974-76), Joe Silveira (1980-81), Art Welsh (1974-75), Chris Turner (1979-80), Archie Roboostoff (1974-76), and John Smillie (1977-78). Gavric will coach the team.

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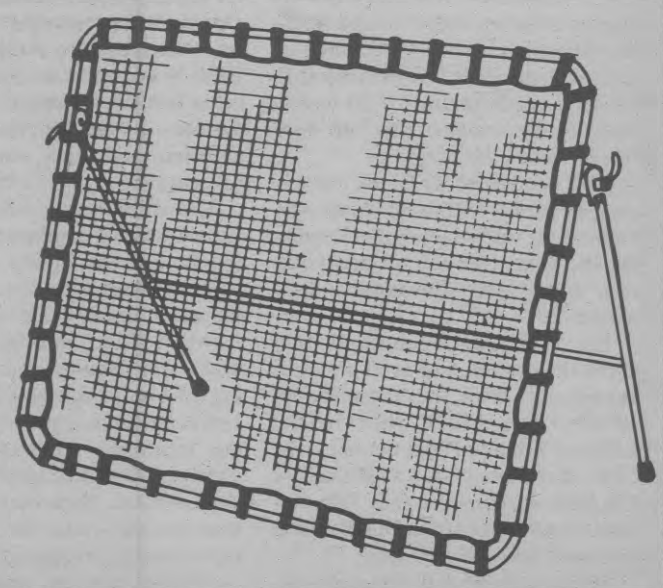

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Taking statistical stock of the MISL season

By Grahame L. Jones

With the MISL regular season over with and the playoffs under way, now is as good a time as any to take stock of the 1983-84 season from a statistical standpoint.

First, there is the matter of attendance, always of prime importance to the owners. Overall, the league averaged 8,707 fans a game during the regular season, an increase of 9 percent over last season's 7,880.

The Cleveland Force showed the most dramatic improvement, an astonishing 107 percent jump over last year. Cleveland's average attendance at the Richfield Coliseum soared from 6,609 per game to 13,674.

Even with that increase, the Force was not tops in the league. That honor went to the Kansas City Comets, whose average of 15,790 represented 99 percent of capacity in the Kemper Arena.

Other teams who came close to packing their stadiums were the Wichita Wings, whose 9,397 average attendance was 97 percent of capacity at the Kansas Coliseum, and the Baltimore Blast, which drew an average of 11,004 per game or 93 percent capacity at the Civic Center.

Cleveland (79 percent) and St. Louis (78 percent) also enjoyed a season that saw their arenas almost filled most of the time.

In the league as a whole, seven of the 12 teams showed an increase in attendance, four showed a decrease, while one, Tacoma, is an expansion team with no previous record to gauge against.

The only surprise among those teams who lost fans at the gate was the Steamers. In 1982-83 when St. Louis finished third in the Western Division, the club averaged 14,693 per game. This season, when the Steamers won the division title, attendance dropped 4.7 percent to 13,992. There seems to be no ready explanation for the slight decrease.

In the case of the other three teams — Buffalo, Phoenix and New York — the loss of fans is directly attributable to poor performance on the field. Buffalo's drop was the most dramatic, with the Stallions losing 30 percent of their fans from a year ago.

Curiously, the Memphis Americans packed their bags at season's end and headed for Las Vegas even though their average attendance had risen by 10.5 percent to 6,031 per game. That figure ranked them seventh in the 12-team league.

The Baltimore Blast, with 16 sellouts, and the Wichita Wings, with 11, led the league in that category.

Here, ranked in alphabetical order, are the attendance figures for the 1983-84 and 1982-83 seasons, with the percentage of change noted on the right:

Team	1983-84	1982-83	Change
Baltimore	11,004	10,581	+ 4.0%
Buffalo	5,183	7,438	- 30.0%
Cleveland	13,674	6,609	+ 107.0%
Kansas City	15,790	14,692	+ 7.5%
Los Angeles	4,405	3,963	+ 11.2%
Memphis	6,031	5,480	+ 10.5%
New York	5,478	5,627	- 2.6%
Phoenix	5,936	6,302	- 5.8%
Pittsburgh	8,278	5,431	+ 52.0%
St. Louis	13,992	14,693	- 4.7%
Tacoma	5,322	—	—
Wichita	9,397	8,341	+ 12.7%

So much for attendance. Now to the on-the-field performance of the 12 teams.

Individually, there are a couple of league records of note. The Baltimore Blast's 20 home victories in 24 games in an MISL mark worthy of note, while the Tacoma Stars' 22 wins in their first MISL season represents a tremendous achievement.

There were a couple of goalkeepers who established new league records. Slobo Ilijevski of the Steamers lowered his own MISL-record goals-against average from 3.85 set in 1981-82 to 3.67. In Wichita, Mike Dowler set three records: most games played (46), most minutes played (2,724) and most shots faced (1,192).

The Los Angeles Lazers, behind comeback goalie of the year Mike Mahoney (4.32 goals-against average in 42 appearances), made the playoffs for the first time in their brief history. The Lazers, under Coach Peter Wall, went from being an 8-40 team last season to a 24-24 team this time around.

The St. Louis Steamers' 26-22 record was the same as last year's, but the Steamers jumped from third to first place in the well-balanced Western Division. Kansas City's record also dropped from 26-22 to 24-24, but the Comets still improved from fourth to third in the final standings.

In the East, Baltimore's 34-14 record was by far the best in the league, but it was the Pittsburgh Spirit that showed the most improvement. The Spirit went from being a fifth-place team with a .500 record a year ago (24-24) to being a second-place team with a 32-16 mark this season.

The Cleveland Force, meanwhile, improved on last year's performance by winning 31 games compared to 29 a year ago, but still fell from second place to third. The Force's 31-17 record was only good for third in the East, but it would have won the team the title in the West.

Although they managed to squeeze into the playoffs, the New York Arrows suffered their worst season ever, finishing with a 20-28 mark. The neighboring Buffalo Stallions took the dubious honor of having the league's worst record. The Stallions' dismal 15-33 finish left them three games worse than the Phoenix Pride, which ended the year at 18-30.

Perhaps not so coincidentally, the two teams with the worst records in the West, Phoenix and Tacoma, and two of the three teams with the worst records in the East, Buffalo and New York, all fired their coaches at some time during the season.

The lesson there, perhaps, is that sometimes teams are simply lacking the right chemistry or talent and that a coaching change alone will not cure that.

Griffiths returns

By Randy Covitz

KANSAS CITY — Clive Griffiths waited three long seasons for this moment.

During that time, he endured a 14-30 season in the Comets' first year, and he survived a battle with cancer last year. He also became an American citizen and a father for the first time.

But there was one void. The playoffs.

Last season, while the Comets were battling in the playoffs, Griffiths was fighting for his life against cancer.

So it was a special moment for Griffiths when the Comets clinched a playoff berth over the weekend. His comeback was complete.

"I've been gunning for this for three years," said Griffiths, the Comets' captain and one of four players remaining from the original team.

"Getting to the playoffs is a big thrill. The first year, we had a bad season and I was out with the bad knee, and the second year, we did well, but I was sitting in the stands watching the playoffs. That was devastating.

"I've been here the longest, and I'm the only one who hasn't played in the playoffs in Kansas City."

After undergoing two operations and four chemotherapy treatments last summer, Griffiths vowed he'd be back in uniform by the first exhibition game, and he was.

Griffiths dressed for the season opener but did not play, and from that point on, the veteran defender played in 46 consecutive games. Griffiths had to sit out the regular-season finale at Tacoma because he accumulated his 20th minute in the Comets' 4-3 victory at St. Louis on April 14. So he had an extra few days to rest for the playoffs.

"It will be nice to be participating," Grifiths said. "Emotionally, we did it the hard way, but things worked out for us."

Griffiths finished the regular season with one goal, eight assists, matching his totals of last season, and his 67 blocked shots ranked fourth on the team.

Despite his storybook comeback, Griffiths, 29, is unsure of the future. His contract expires at the end of the season, and Griffiths hopes he has convinced the coaches and management he has a few more productive seasons left.

"Kansas City is where I want to be, and where I want to stay," Griffiths said. "I've put all my efforts into preserving that. I hope it will work out.

"But ask any player who's at the end of his contract, and he's concerned.

"When I came here, I signed a three-year contract, I've been through so much with the team and personally, and it's all gone so quickly."

If the Comets don't last long in the playoffs, or if contract talks don't go the way Griffiths hopes, he can view matters from a perspective few can appreciate.

"When I seem depressed or down about how the team is going, I sit at home and look at all the news clips of the previous year [when I was ill]," Griffiths said.

"Then I see things are not so bad. Things could be worse."

Comets notes: Comets Coach Pat McBride was hospitalized for four days because of a viral infection and missed the team's victory at St. Louis on April 14. Assistant coach Rich Benben directed the team in McBride's absence. McBride had been experiencing flu-like symptoms for nearly two weeks, and he checked into the hospital after the Comets' 6-5 victory over Phoenix on April 13 when his temperature reached 103 degrees . . . The Comets finished the regular season as the MISL's attendance leader, averaging 15,786 per game, for 99.1 percent capacity of Kemper Arena. Of the 24 home games, 15 were sellouts, and the Comets had 14 crowds of 16,000 or more . . . Forward Gordon Hill, who has set a franchise record for most goals in a season, 46, and tied the record for most points, 63, was named the team's most valuable player in a vote of the media.

Olympians, Cosmos at L.A. Coliseum

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles area soccer fans will be treated to a doubleheader at the Los Angeles Coliseum on May 1 when both the U.S. Olympic developmental team and the NASL's Cosmos appear in the stadium.

The Olympic team will play Cal State Los Angeles in a 6 p.m. game, while the Cosmos will take on Club America of Mexico in the nightcap at 8 p.m.

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MISL

A brutal year ends for the Phoenix Pride

By Bob Nightengale

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Paychecks arrived on time this season. The Internal Revenue Service didn't have to make daily phone calls. And no players were sold to ease the team's payroll burden.

Despite the front office stability, the 1983-84 Phoenix Pride was probably more disappointing than in any of its previous three years when it was known as the Phoenix Inferno. It was, in the words of Pride general manager Ted Podleski, "a brutal year."

The Pride guaranteed its fans a Major Indoor Soccer League playoff berth. Instead, the Pride (18-30) finished its season with the worst record in its history.

The crowd at Veterans Memorial Coliseum — which watched the Pride lose to the St. Louis Steamers 6-3, and defeat the Wichita Wings 7-5 — in its final two games averaged less than 6,000 for the season and heavily booed Podleski during pregame introductions.

"I don't get up every morning and say 'whoopie.' "
—Ted Podleski

"Do I know people are disappointed in our team?" said Podleski, who was 5-13 after replacing Coach Tony Simoes. "Sure I do. I don't get up every morning and say, 'whoopie.' "

Injuries, Podleski maintains, made it impossible for his team to contend this season. Midfielder Oscar Albuquerque and forward Mark Kerlin were the only Pride players who did not miss a game because of injuries. And the entire team was healthy for only two games, Feb. 4 to Feb. 8.

"I think if we learned anything this year," Podleski said, "it's that you can't count on anything. We built what we thought was a quality team, and it was a darn good team on paper. But the injuries played a major part in tearing it down."

Steve David, the team's leading scorer the past two seasons, was the Pride's most costly casualty. By playing in just 23 games he scored 21 points this season, 59 less than last year.

But even when the Pride was almost injury-free at the season's beginning, it still lost eight of its first 12 games and 17 of its first 30. The players and Simoes claim it took longer than anticipated for the talent-laden team to jell with nine new players.

Podleski called it a poor excuse. He fired Simoes March 7.

Now, a few playing careers in Phoenix also figure to end.

"Originally, I thought we'd only have to make two changes each year," Podleski said. "But I was dreaming too quickly. I think we have five or six spots we need to improve.

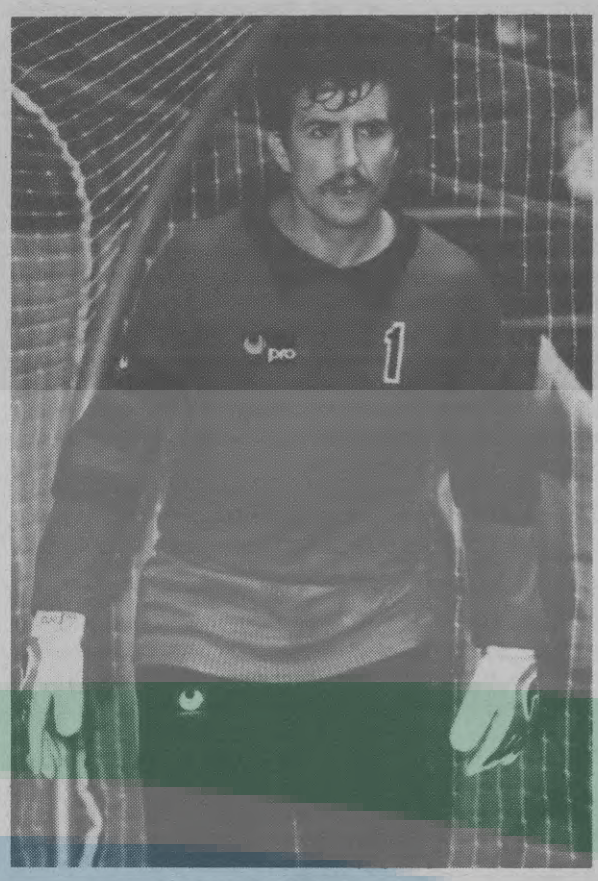
"If those players did improve during the off-season, that's fine. But some would require heart transplants.

"I want 20 players who want to go out and win and show it. But we've got 20 guys that just like to talk it."

Podleski refused to name any players that he'll waive or trade, but the three most likely candidates are defender Gene Strenicer, forward Ruben Astigarraga, and midfielder Frantz St. Lot.

"I can tolerate an off-year, but what I can't tolerate is an off-heart," Podleski said. "There's no excuse for that. A lack of heart is unforgivable to me."

The only players on the team believed to have guaranteed contracts next season are David and Albuquerque. David recently undergo arthroscopic surgery on his ankle, and Albuquerque scored 49 points, 18 points fewer than last season's total.



Re-signing goalkeeper Blagoje Tamindzic is among Ted Podleski's major concerns as the Phoenix Pride closes out its worst season to date.

(Photo by Milton Crossen)

"I couldn't care less what anyone's contract says," Podleski said. "We're not going to be tied to a player just because of a contract. But still, you can't replace someone unless you have someone better."

Podleski's immediate attention will be re-signing goalkeeper Blagoje Tamindzic and midfielder Peter Baralic, and finding a coach. Tamindzic played out his option this season and Baralic, who was voted the team's most valuable player, will enter his option year next season.

Podleski's choice as coach figures to come from the college or North American Soccer League ranks. And also most likely will be an American.

"It's not a prerequisite to be an American, but an American probably understands the American athlete better," Podleski said. "I'd like to hire a coach as soon as possible, but I want to be careful I make the right choice. We don't want a tour director coaching this team.

"I don't want to go through a year like we did this year. No sir."

Americans try luck in Las Vegas

By Ray Jordan

MEMPHIS — It was a gamble and they lost . . . $1.8 million, or thereabouts. Now, ironically, the Memphis Americans will try their luck in Las Vegas.

Three years ago, Memphians gambled they could support a Major Indoor Soccer League despite one of the league's smallest arenas and a previous failure in the North American Soccer League (the Rogues, 1978-80). It ended April 18 when the owners threw in their cards and agreed to sell the franchise to a Las Vegas group for $1.6 million.

"It's a very sad thing that this is the ultimate outcome after three years of the most difficult struggling," said co-director Robert Ryan, who had borrowed almost $500,000 against his steel business this season to keep the team afloat. "But selling the team finally became the only practical thing to do from a business standpoint."

Ryan and fellow co-director Charles Kelley had entertained offers from several cities, including Memphis, after it became apparent at mid-season that they would have to sell the team. They had hoped to sell to someone willing to keep the team in Memphis, but Ryan said the only local offer would have forced them to declare bankruptcy and write off some $800,000 in debts (including the loans against his steel business).

So after the Americans were eliminated from the playoff picture with back-to-back losses at Buffalo and New York April 14 and 15, Ryan and Kelley determined they could carry the team no longer. Ryan flew to Las Vegas and concluded an agreement with a group headed by William Morris, owner of the Landmark Hotel and former principal in the Las Vegas Quicksilver of the NASL.

Americans' owners, who had lost just under $2 million in the three years the team operated in Memphis, said the sale price would allow them to repay club creditors in full. The club's 21 limited partners were promised they would be refunded as much as 25 percent of their investments.

The Americans came to Memphis in 1981 when Ray Kuns, an Arizona businessman noted for funding religious projects, bought the Hartford Hellions franchise. It was Memphis' second attempt at an MISL team. Kuns first had attempted to buy an expansion franchise, but was turned down.

Commissioner Earl Foreman, who had opposed Memphis' bid primarily because of limited seating at the Mid-South Coliseum (9,700), relented after he and league owners were bombarded by a letter-writing campaign from the old Rogues' booster club.

Kuns originally had in mind operating the Americans as a sort of professional Athletes-in-Action team, mixing athletics and religion. He appointed Dave Hannah, AIA director, to run the club.

Hannah, however, quickly got the ax when the club's start at the gate and on the field didn't suit Kuns. Kuns then bailed out two months into the first season, transferring ownership to Kelley and Ryan.

Foreman had advised Kuns that the club needed to be capitalized for $2 million if it was to have a reasonable chance for success. But when Kuns pulled out, the Americans were left with only slightly over $1 million in funding. That would prove to be the downfall of the Americans. Kelley and Ryan never secured enough additional investors, and attendance never was able to make up the difference.

The Americans tried to economize. Every year they had one of the league's lowest payrolls. Stan Stamenkovic, the MISL's premier star, was allowed to go to Baltimore when the club refused to renegotiate his contract. Kyle Rote Jr. took on the double role of coach and general manager to cut back on costs.

At the gate, meanwhile, attendance was steady but not spectacular. The city's loyal, hard-core soccer followers faithfully showed up at every game, but average season attendance never got higher than 6,000 this year. Three seasons of losing records, including only one playoff appearance, didn't help the gate.

Foreman praised Memphis' unsuccessful efforts to support the Americans.

"There are dedicated, loyal fans in Memphis," Foreman said. "It's a pity. I feel bad about it. I don't think Bob Ryan or Charles Kelley or Kyle Rote left any stones unturned in the city trying to get the job done.

"I can't say anybody did anything wrong. The basic support was fantastic. It just wasn't broad enough. What there was was wonderful. There just wasn't enough of it."

In retrospect, Foreman said, his first decision denying Memphis a franchise might have been the right one.

"You're going to have your fours and fives [thousands of fans], you've got to have some 12s and 13s to balance it out."

So now the Americans are bound for the "Land of One-Armed Bandits," and that seems fitting. They have some experience at losing money.

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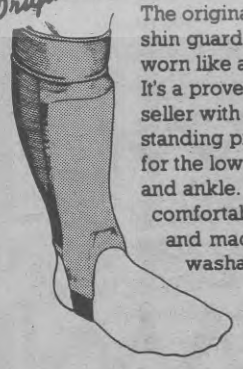

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MISL

Baretta comes on strong in Stars' surge

By Carter Cromwell

TACOMA — That John Baretta is now a large factor in the Tacoma Stars' surge wasn't expected at the beginning of the season. Baretta himself wasn't quite sure of what to expect.

A year earlier, one week into training camp with the Buffalo Stallions, he was blindsided during a scrimmage and suffered extensive damage to his knee. Very late in the season, he came back to see action in five games, but his future as a full-time player wasn't certain.

"When it happened, the trainer told me it was bad," Baretta says now. "Privately, they told my wife that I wouldn't be able to play again. They thought my knee was all gone, that both ligaments and everything else was just blown away.

"But after some more examination, they discovered that just the medial collateral ligament was torn and the other [the anterior cruciate] was only stretched, so my wife was spared from having to give me some really bad news. The trainer didn't pull any punches with me after that, but he told me how far I came back amounted to how much I was willing to put into it."

As it turned out, he put enough into it to oust Tony Chursky from the Stars' starting lineup about a quarter of the way though the season, and became a reason Tacoma has posted a 19-13 record following a 1-11 start (as of April 10) and is now in contention for a Western Division playoff spot.

He's started 15 of the last 16 games and brought his goals-against average down to 4.32 from a high of 5.43 at the time Freddie Goodwin replaced Bob McNab as the Star's head coach. When Goodwin took over, Baretta was 0-6. Since then, he's won 11 of 16 starts. Since Goodwin became coach, Baretta's goals-against average has been 3.90. "It took a while for me to come back," said Baretta, who has two years of outdoor experience with Edmonton of the North American Soccer League and played on the Driller's 1980-81 NASL indoor championship team.

"The last time I'd played indoor was in early 1982, and then I was coming off the knee injury, too.

"I think a lot of us had the problem of adjusting to the Major Indoor Soccer League because most of us didn't have much MISL experience. The NASL's indoor game is very slow and methodical. The players don't play off the wall nearly as much as they do in the MISL. Here, everybody goes 100 miles an hour and doesn't stop. The skill level is higher in the MISL, too.

"The teams use the boards a lot more in this league, and that's one thing a lot of our guys had to get used to. The only reason I knew it was because I had the luxury of sitting and watching last season. Otherwise, I would have really been taken aback. The guys that have been in the league awhile know exactly when and where they balls are going to come off the wall. At first, our guys didn't, and other teams were really abusing us."

But the Stars, whose name was an ironic joke in the early part of the season, have learned rapidly. With some acquisitions such as forwards Mark Peterson and Dale Mitchell after the season began, they have become more effective both on offense and defense.

"A lot of us just needed to play. That was what my situation was," Baretta said. "I needed to play and get some confidence. There was a game at home against St. Louis in which we were down 3-0 with six or seven minutes to go and came back and won 4-3. That changed it all for us; it was the start of something for the Tacoma Stars.

"Now, we're well-organized and one of the best-disciplined teams in the league. We're probably the most fit team in the league, too. I tell you, when we were 1-11, Jimmy St. Clair said that we'd make the playoffs, and everybody said he was absolutely crazy. But he'd been in the MISL for five seasons, and he knew we had talent. Now we're proving it."

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MISL

Force has ups and downs on way to playoffs

By Chuck Murr

RICHFIELD, Ohio — The only thing consistent about the Cleveland Force has been its inconsistency.

"This is a difficult team to figure out," said Force coach Timo Liekoski after a 7-6 loss in Memphis to the Americans, which in itself was full of inconsistencies. Cleveland fell behind 5-2, then mounted a furious comeback, only to lose.

Two days later, the Force appeared to play steady soccer in a 6-3 conquest of the Buffalo Stallions before 11,137 home fans.

Then two more days later, the Force hit a season high in the season finale, destroying the visiting New York Arrows, 12-5, before 14,123 fans.

"It was one of the few games where we could take chances and experiment," said Liekoski. "Everybody played and everybody contributed. That's important."

The highlights were many:

The victory was a team-record 31st of the season.

The 12 goals were the most scored by Cleveland this season.

Kai Haaskivi had three assists to give him a career-high total 88 points for one season.

Craig Allen had two goals and two assists for a career-high 86 points; his first goal also was his 200th MISL career point.

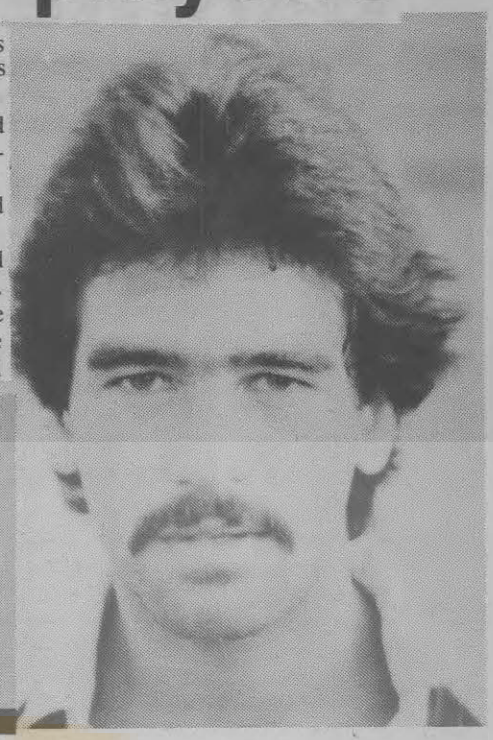
Louie Nanchoff set career marks in goals (36), assists (35) and points (71).

Keith Furphy scored two goals and played in a team-record 150th consecutive game.

Defender Peter Millar celebrated his 33rd birthday with two goals.

Defender Michael Kaham scored his first goal since February, 1983.

Midfielder George Fernandez, the first pick in last fall's MISL college draft, played in his first professional game.



George Fernandez

The crowd of 14,123 brought the season total to a team-record 323,201, more than doubling last season's total attendance.

"Well, now it's on to the real season," said Haaskivi afterward, in reference to the playoffs.

Cleveland plays its first two playoff games in Pittsburgh against the Spirit and some members of the Force are concerned about not having the home-field advantage.

"I was definitely disappointed at not beating out Pittsburgh for second place," said defender Trevor Dawkins. "I like to have every advantage possible."

Liekoski agreed. "Our fan support has been tremendous," he said.

"Conceivably, we could have won 23 of our 24 home games. We only played one stinker at home."

Others are supremely confident going into the playoffs.

"Pittsburgh is a real good team, but we should beat them," said defender Bernie James. "We went 3-3 with them during the season and played like garbage against them. We gave away two of the games. We won't do that in the playoffs."

Allen, who experienced a late-season slump, is eager to begin post-season play. "It's exciting to think that the games mean something again," he said. "After we made it to the playoffs, it was boring. We had nothing to look forward to. Now we've got something to get excited about."

Force feedings: Goalkeeper Krys Sobieski missed the final four games with an injury to his left hand, but will be ready for the playoffs. . . Midfielder Tommy Kristiansen, out since early January with a broken leg, suited up for the New York game, but didn't play. Kristiansen, with a pin in his right leg, has made a remarkable recovery and could see action if the Force gets past Pittsburgh . . . Defenders Drew Ferguson and Benny Dargle sat out the final game with minor injuries.

Final team leaders: Games played, Furphy, 48; goals, Allen, 49; assists, Haaskivi, 51; points, Haaskivi, 88; shots, Furphy, 284; blocked shots, Ferguson, 106; penalty minutes, Millar, 32; minutes played, Sobieski, 1,682.

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VISITORS LOCKER ROOM

Offering some suggestions to the refs

By Gordon Hill

As I approach the end of my 31st year in active soccer officiating — the last eight years in the U.S. — it seems a good time to make some comparisons, to take stock of the situation now and to offer suggestions for the future.

My overriding impression is that officiating seems low on everybody's priority list — apart from complaining about it — and referees as a body exude an air of apathetic tolerance if not a little despair. Observe any group of officials preparing for games and you would imagine they had Beirut United versus Grenada Reds on their schedule.

The missing ingredient appears to be fun, this being related to an almost complete absence of job-satisfaction. The only reason I continue blowing the whistle — even though I can no longer run and blow at the same time! — is because I love the darned job and the pleasure I get, in most cases, from the sincere expression of thanks at the end of the game.

However, there was a time years ago when I wanted much more, mainly the recognition that continuing to be a good referee ensured my upward movement towards my target of reaching the English Football League list of officials. The structure of English soccer provides that opportunity with a series of progressive steps allowing a referee a steady climb to the top — each step being just a shade more difficult and demanding of ability. In a way, a referee is his own teacher, provided he continues to learn from the escalating experiences.

During this long growth period English referees are supported also by two parent organizations — The Football Association and the Referees Association. No matter on which league or competition you are officiating, the F.A. retains a very special interest in your performance and exerts tremendous influence on your promotional opportunities.

It would be almost impossible to reach the Football League list without recommendations from the F.A. Of course, there will always be "political favors" granted to the occasional "blue-eyed boys," but invariably you only get to the top on merit and recognition from your peers.

Very little of this is true for referees in this country. Not only is the USSF merely modestly supportive, but our referees are subject also to the authority and control of too many other bodies insisting on poking their noses into areas that should be only remotely their concern.

It takes me longer now to get ready for a game than it did for my son for his senior prom! First check my uniform for manufacturer's logo; second, find the proper heraldry from my vast collection of pocket-badges and third, make sure I read the proper rule book. (To think I used to get upset with the Football League just for demanding four inches of white turn-over on my socks!)

If we accept that so much job satisfaction comes from recognition and reward of effort stemming from a structured, promotional ladder, then we U.S. officials face a major obstacle. On our ladder the steps are very infrequent and each step forces us to make an almost impossible giant stride. But, not only that, the bloody ladder has so many owners that you don't know how or where to get on the thing in the first place!

As more competitive leagues appear, each with a corresponding improvement in the quality of play — and this is happening in some areas — then we shall be able to meet most of the essential needs of a well-structured referee development program. This program, however must be under the sole supervision of one controlling body. For instance, the potential step from youth soccer up to the high school game is negated by the insistence of the high schools' organizations of having their own laws of the game and their own criteria for the selection of their officials. My own son, although a good college player, has never taken a referees course in his life. Nevertheless, after attending three short training sessions, he's now a full-fledged high school referee — doing the two-man system!

"I shudder to think of a system that classifies referees on the whims and idiosyncracies of coaches."

The top of the refereeing ladder all over the world is at professional league level. Next year it seems there will be so few outdoor pro games here that a meeting of pro-league officials could take place in Bob Evans' bathroom! This is a concern, but one that could become less important to referees if only we were able to take proper advantage of the rapid growth of college soccer.

I am excited by the emerging college soccer scene. There are lots of games all over the country attracting many thousands of enthusiastic supporters and usually at quite a high standard of play. Certainly, college referees can be challenged by aggressive competition and intense rivalry. But after two seasons officiating at this level, I state, unequivocally, that college soccer is hindering the national development of our referees.

The college game is isolated by its refusal to recognize its place on the educational and promotional ladder by, just like the high school groups, insisting on its own "Alice in Wonderland" interpretation of the international laws of soccer and its patronizing system of referee selection.

The most frightening and certainly harmful effects of this despotic control are the result of this responsibility being in the self-serving hands of the college coaches themselves. This last season has been a real eye-opener, which the following verifiable instances will indicate.

- The coach of a Division One school refuses to play a neighboring, small NAIA team unless they agree to out-of-state officials.
- Another school threatens to appoint future officials only from out of state on the basis of one — yes, one! — decision against them in a previous game.
- One well-established NAIA school coach informs me by letter that I will never referee his games as he insists I have a personal bias against him.

Paradoxically, I was asked by another coach to referee his six most important games because "I was the best referee in the country."

The most laughable instance, although perhaps the one most illuminating of college coach authority, occurred after a game between two Division One "powers." I ejected one coach for "foul and obscene" language directed at me and heard by many young spectators and their parents in the vicinity. Then after the game, this fellow made a written attack on my ability and integrity to all coaches in his conference. More importantly, he used my actions for what he thought was a good reason for demanding more control of who referees his games. One cannot avoid the implication that to do well in college soccer, referees must never eject so-called ranking coaches.

I shudder to think of a system that classifies referees on the whims and idiosyncrasies of coaches.

If college soccer is to represent the near pinnacle of refereeing, then its leaders must relinquish their unilateral approach and be prepared to become an integral part of a national referee development program. They must accept a scheme that allows only the appointment of USSF-qualified and experienced officials to their lists — officials who have been recommended by their peers to those positions.

If referees care about our plight of a lack of a carefully-controlled and progressive promotional ladder, one in which we have abundant input, then we must demand it, not wait for it to happen. If we wait for the USSF to act, then our flags will droop and the peas in our whistles will rot! However, I am committed to the international soccer leadership of FIFA and that of its representative in the U.S. It is up to us as individuals to put the power into their hands, for any association can only be as strong and effective as its members.

We have the referees; I have met hundreds of them, all serious about their soccer intentions and eager to be given a fair chance. If they are not given that chance now, the development and quality of soccer in the U.S. will be seriously retarded — perhaps for ever.

NATIONAL CUPS

REGION I
MEN'S AMATEUR CUP — INTERSTATE
Preliminary Round:
Danubia (E. Pa.) 4, Beadling (W. Pa.) 1
Quarterfinals:
Casa Bianco (Md.) 1, Club Espana (Metro-D.C.) 0 OT
Newark Portuguese (N.J.) 3, S.C. Gjoa (S.N.Y.) 0
Portuguese Sports (Ma.) 3, Hartford Portuguese (Conn.) 4 PK
WOMEN'S AMATEUR CUP
Southern New York Final:
Budweiser Eagles 2, Massapequa/Levittown S.C. 3
Interstate — Quarterfinal:
Camp Spring (Md.) 0, McLean Redshins (Metro-D.C.) 1

REGION II
MEN'S OPEN CUP — Ohio North Final
Croatia S.C. 3, Olympic S.C. 2
MEN'S AMATEUR CUP — Ohio North Final
Croatia S.C. 7, Italian Gladiators 1
MEN'S AMATEUR CUP — Heart of America
Loco Joe's W.S.U. Int. 4, Wichita Wheathawks 1
MEN'S AMATEUR CUP — Michigan Final
Ukrainian S.C. 6, Capitol Kickers 0
MEN'S AMATEUR CUP — Wisconsin Final
Bavarian Pabst B.R. 5, Croatian Eagles 3
MEN'S OPEN CUP — Illinois
Croatan S.C. 3, Wilmette S.C. 2
MEN'S AMATEUR CUP — Illinois
Chicago Kickers 2, Viking A.A. 1
MEN'S OVER—30 CUP — Illinois
Croatan S.C. 1, Winged Bulls 0
Wings 7, Chicago Pampas 1
MEN'S AMATEUR CUP — Missouri
Busch S.C. 3, Shamrock S.C. 0
Dependable Auto 1, Gannett Outdoor 3
West 75 Peppers 1, PAN Sport Club 3
Kutis S.C. 4, Scott Gallagher 0

REGION III
MEN'S AMATEUR CUP — Louisiana Final
Greek-American 3, Olympia S.C. 1
MEN'S AMATEUR CUP — Tennessee Final
Quick Silver 2, Nashville Blues 3
MEN'S OVER-30 CUP — Tennessee Final
Lowenbrau Pharoahs 12, Quick Silver 1
WOMEN'S AMATEUR CUP — Interstate Quarterfinal
Michelob Ladies (N. Tx.) 6, Valkyries (La.) 0

REGION IV
MEN'S OPEN CUP — Interstate
CWC Comets (Colo.) 2, Croatia (Ariz.) 0
MEN'S AMATEUR CUP — California-North
Italia San Jose 3, Mill Valley S.C. 0
Concordia S.A. 1, Fresno Ararat 0
MEN'S AMATEUR CUP — California South
Cruz Azul 1, Coap 0
San Gabriel 3, Cerritos 0
MEN'S AMATEUR CUP — Interstate
Denver Kickers 2, Croatia (Ariz.) 0
WOMEN'S AMATEUR CUP — Interstate
South Mountain Diplomats (Ariz.) 6, Pan World United (Utah) 1
WOMEN'S AMATEUR CUP — California North
Golden Eagles 2, 1 F.C. Mill Valley 0
Sarsi 4, S.C. United 1
Final
Sarsi 4, Golden Eagles 3
WOMEN'S OVER-30 CUP — California North
San Jose United 7, Albany S.C. 0

New league in works

By David Tanner

CHICAGO — Buoyed by a recent five-city tour of exhibition matches that drew an average of 4,000 fans and bolstered by the addition of a Milwaukee entry, the fledgling American Indoor Soccer Association took a step toward reality last week with the public announcement of a four-city charter nucleus.

Bob Lemieux, the Kalamazoo-based entrepreneur who has spearheaded the drive for an "all-American" developmental league since 1978, made the formal introduction April 18 in Chicago.

The charter markets include Kalamazoo, Chicago, Fort Wayne and Milwaukee, and Lemieux hinted that by the time competition begins in November, two to four additional cities will sign. He listed potential entries as Toledo, Columbus and Dayton, Ohio; Peoria and Springfield, Ill., and Detroit, Flint and Saginaw, Mich.

The AISA, which plans to act as a feeder system for the NASL and the MISL, would play a 40-game season in arenas where International Hockey League franchises currently operate, except in Chicago, where team officials there are planning to build a 5,000-seat facility for 1985.

A former general manager of the Fort Lauderdale Strikers, Lemieux will perform the duties as loop commissioner out of league offices in Kalamazoo.

The new league claims the endorsement of Major Indoor Soccer League Commissioner Earl Foreman as well as several clubs, including Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Tacoma, St. Louis, Dallas and Kansas City. In addition, the MISL Players Association has extended its support to the venture.

Dave Boucher, league public relations director, said the first four franchises cost $20,000 each.

THE WEEKEND PITCH

By Tim Sheldon

Roughnecks make bid to enter Open Cup

The Tulsa Roughnecks, last season's NASL Soccer Bowl champions, have made U.S. soccer history by becoming the first NASL team to formally request a spot in the National Open Cup playoffs.

The Roughnecks made their initial request by telephone to the U.S. Soccer Federation and then followed it up with a formal letter of application. Tulsa will have to wait until next year to participate, however, because their NASL outdoor schedule conflicts with the South regional finals in San Antonio May 19-20 and the national finals June 23-24 in St. Louis.

"We were willing," said Senior Division Administrator Fritz Marth, "but then the scheduling problem arose."

Getting in the Open Cup playoffs next year shouldn't be a problem for Tulsa or any other NASL club that wants to participate, if the league can schedule its regular season matches around the regional and national finals. The league will be finding out the dates almost a year in advance, because the USSF will be announcing them at its annual general meeting in New York in July.

Marth said the USSF was willing to let the Roughnecks meet the Senior Division finalist in the South regional, with the winner continuing on to the national finals in St. Louis. This approach was acceptable to the Roughnecks, as well, but then the league dates interfered, Marth said.

NASL teams could enter the Open Cup in all four regions under the same format, and if more than one NASL team wanted to enter from the same region, then they would play each other to see who would earn the right to meet the Senior Division finalist for the regional title, Marth said.

The winner of the National Open Cup qualifies to take part in the CONCACAF tournament for national club champions, which is the most important international competition that any U.S. club can participate in. CONCACAF stands for the Confederation of North and Central American and Caribbean Football Associations. It's our section within the worldwide governing body of soccer, FIFA.

"I think the NASL teams are starting to think ahead to the CONCACAF Cup," Marth said. "They're starting to see it as meaningful international competition."

The winner of the CONCACAF Cup is eligible to play the winners of South America's Libertadores Cup, and the winner of that match could meet the European club champion for the world title. Clearly, there's a lot to be gained from playing in the CONCACAF Cup, and, before that, the National Open Cup.

In order to qualify for CONCACAF, a team has to either win a league title or win the Open Cup. This year's CONCACAF entrants from the U.S. — the New York Freedoms and Jacksonville Tea Men — won the Open Cup and American Soccer League championship, respectively, last season.

The New York Cosmos have recently expressed an interest in the CONCACAF Cup and may make a strong effort to get in it next year. Observers close to the situation feel that if Tulsa and another NASL club or two enter the Open Cup next year, the Cosmos will also.

And just because an NASL team enters the Open Cup, one shouldn't automatically assume that they'll win it. The Senior Division teams are very good, and it's the nature of national cup competition around the world that underdogs often win. I'd have to give the NASL clubs an edge, of course, but the win won't be automatic.

The Denver Kickers, defending U.S. Amateur Cup champions, have made some soccer history of their own. The Kickers took on the Vancouver, B.C., Firefighters in the first USA-Canada Amateur Soccer Challenge Cup at Denver and won 1-0 in overtime.

Sotaris Kofales, a senior at the university of Denver, won the game for Denver when he took a pass from Lorne Donaldson and beat the Firefighters' keeper with three minutes gone in the first overtime period.

The game was originally scheduled to be played April 21, but the sudden arrival of 16 inches of snow caused a one-day delay. Players from both teams, assisted by Kickers fans, grabbed shovels and cleared the field.

"We had about 70 people out there with snow shovels," said Kickers manager Carl Schuessler.

The Kickers and Firefighters have thus set the stage for a yearly North American Amateur Cup, although it still remains to be seen if each year's champions will have the time and money to play the match. It looks like an event that deserves sponsorship.

Region finals in the Budweiser-sponsored U.S. national cups will take place May 19-20 in Region 1 (Northeast), Region 3 (South) and Region 4 (West). Region 2 (Midwest) will hold its finals June 9-10. The playing sites are Philadelphia in the East, San Antonio in the South, Denver in the West and Minneapolis in the Midwest. Phoenix Soccer Club will host the finals in Philadelphia, while the matches in Minneapolis will be played at the University of Minnesota's Memorial Stadium.

In cup matches over the Easter weekend, Kutis defeated the PNA Club 2-0 and Busch SC topped Gannett Outdoor 4-2, both in Amateur Cup matches in St. Louis. In San Francisco, meanwhile, the Greek Americans defeated San Francisco Italian Athletic Club (SFIAC) 2-0 in the Northern California finals of the Open Cup, and San Jose Italia downed Concordia 2-1 in the Amateur Cup final for Northern California. Gereard Findlay and John Smillie converted for the Greeks, while Mike Nieto scored Concordia's only goal. *(See cup scores on page 27).*

National team prepares for bout with Italy

By Kurt Ericsson

There is apparently little question in the mind of U.S. national coach Alkis Panagoulias as to which professional team has the top American soccer players.

The 22-man squad selected by Panagoulias and announced last Monday by the United States Soccer Federation for the historic May 30th match with World Champ Italy at Giants Stadium includes eight members of the Cosmos.

The eight Cosmos include goalkeeper David Brcic, defenders Dan Canter and Jeff Durgan, midfielder Angelo DiBernardo and forwards Chico Borja, Steve Moyers, Alan Green and Andrew Parkinson.

"These are the best players in the country," said Panagoulias. "And I think the Cosmos have the best American players."

The remainder of the 22-man squad from which a 16-man selection will be made prior to the match, includes goalkeepers Winston DuBose (Tulsa) and Arnie Mausser (Tampa Bay); defenders Tony Bellinger (St. Louis), Kevin Crow (San Diego), Erhardt Kapp (Pittsburgh), Bruce Savage (Phoenix) and Gregg Thompson (Tampa Bay); midfielders Rick Davis (St. Louis), Charlie Fajkus and Rudy Glenn (Chicago), Perry Van der Beck (Tampa Bay) and forwards Elvis Comrie (Chicago), Hugo Perez (San Diego) and Mark Peterson (Tacoma).

"One of the most important events in the history of U.S. soccer," says national coach Alkis Panagoulias about the U.S.-Italy game on May 30 at Giants Stadium. (Photo by Janice Rettaliata)

The team includes just five players — Bellinger, Kapp, Savage, Davis and Peterson — from the Major Indoor Soccer League, but includes 13 former members of Team America — the ill-fated North American Soccer League team coached by Panagoulias last season.

"I had a longer list of players that included more players from the MISL," said the U.S. national coach. "But they could still be in the playoffs at that time, so it looked impossible to have all those guys.

"Besides," he added, "I don't know what they could do playing against the champions of the world outdoors just a few days after finishing their indoor seasons. I think most of the MISL players will need 25 to 30 days to adapt to the outdoor game."

Panagoulias went on to describe the game between the U.S. and Italy as "one of the most important events in the history of U.S. soccer" and likened the David and Goliath match-up as similar to "Rocky Balboa facing Apollo Creed" in the movie "Rocky."

"If we can have some time together — hopefully a full week before the game," said Panagoulias, "I think we can make a good showing.

"This is the most talented U.S. national team ever assembled," he added, "I have great faith in them and I'm confident that driven by a desire to achieve international success, we may surprise a few people.

"Everyone is thinking and talking about the Olympics right now," concluded Panagoulias. "But the World Cup competition has got to be our utlimate goal. This is where we can get the greatest exposure."

★ ★ ★

Following the U.S.-Italy match, the U.S. national team will disperse until the early fall when an ambitious schedule of international matches is planned both before and after the U.S.'s home-and-home World Cup qualifying matches against the Netherlands Antilles. Teams that will probably supply the opposition for the U.S. at that time include the national teams of Argentina, Peru and Poland.

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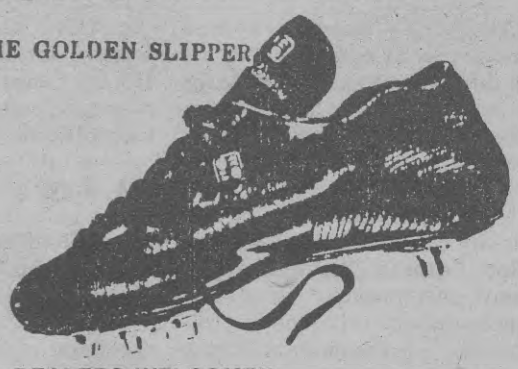

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AMERICAN SCENE

Mustangs are Texas high school victors

By Phil Stephens

AUSTIN, Texas — Coach Richard Mungioli's J.J. Pearce Mustangs struck a decisive blow for classic textbook soccer when they nipped Arlington Lamar 1-0 for the Texas High School Championship April 7. The team from Richardson was defending state champ, but had to battle in the playoffs from the outset, since they were runners-up in their suburban Dallas district.

A surprising Lamar found itself in the state finals, a position that made soccer purists around the state cringe. The Arlington team, located between Dallas and Forth Worth, didn't impress many with their passing, skills or technique. The Vikings did win games by using one-touch, long-ball tactics and almost continous substitution.

"I had one coach come up to me before a game this year and say we play second-rate soccer," said Lamar coach I.C. Little. "And then we went and beat them 6-0. I think most of the people are soccer purists, and they're just not ready to accept change. We have just as skilled players as they do, we just run a different version of soccer."

"It was important that a team with a skill game won," Mungioli said. "Soccer enthusiasts like to see an attractive passing game. It was important that a team with a skill game won, because the other way is not attractive," Mungioli said. "It's not what we need to build interest in the game. Little's team just tried to win by wearing the other team down, keeping fresh players in the game and playing the long ball."

Despite the fact that two Dallas-area teams played in the finals in Austin, 190 miles south, and played the finals in drizzling rain, 3,500 showed up. Nearly 6,500 watched Pearce win it last year against an Austin-area team.

Dean Strouser earned the only goal with 24:12 left in the game. A shot from 24 yards out bounced off Lamar goalie Robert Wadkins' hands. Wadkins whirled around to cover the rainslick ball, but the linesman ruled the ball came off his hands and on the goal line.

"The key to beating them was not to play their hustling game," Mungioli said. "We really moved the ball around, letting the ball do the running and playing a tight defense. Against the wind, we played a 4-4-2 and a 3-3-4 formation with the wind."

Lamar suffered its only shutout in a 20-2-1 season and was allowed just eight shots on goal. Pearce finished the year 18-3-2.

Mungioli is a rare breed among Texas high school coaches, with a USSF "A" license and college coaching experience to boot (he was the SMU assistant coach for several years).

"It was tougher winning this year, because, one, we lost some good talent from last year, four starters; two, because teams were able to use club players this year, many teams were tougher; and three, being the defending champion made us a target that everyone wanted to knock off."

The court action that enabled club players to join their high school teams was a class action suit filed by Bruce Lobdell, a player for Lake Highlands High School in Dallas, in the same Richardson district that Pearce High played in. The ruling, in the fall of 1983, was appealed by the University Interscholastic League. But the UIL, even if they win the appeal, will allow club players at least one year with their varsity high school team.

Because Mungioli is such a high-caliber coach, Pearce players have almost always opted to play for the high school instead of clubs. Consequently, Pearce players aren't as well known in soccer circles around North Texas, but Mungioli says several will be college-bound when their high school careers are over.

"The top college potential on the team includes Will Tibbets at centerhalf, sweeper Brett Bennett, and left half, Dean Strauser," Mungioli said.

In the semifinals match in Austin, Pearce beat Houston Klein 1-0, on a short chip shot by Jamil Alam. The goal offset a fine goalkeeper's performance by Klein's Gary Gross. Lamar beat Brownsville Porter 3-0, with all three goals coming in the 3-minute period in the second half.

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WORLD'S GAME

France downs West Germany in warm-up

STRASBOURG — France confirmed its form as a leading contender for this year's European championship with a spirited and well-deserved 1-0 win over reigning champion West Germany here April 18.

The victory by a sharp and enthusiastic French side was all the more impressive since its squad had been badly hit by pre-match injuries and club commitments.

A well-taken goal by Bernard Genghini in the 79th minute settled the issue, but persistent French pressure throughout the match could easily have produced a bigger win.

By contrast the Germans appeared lackluster and showed little of the form that overcame France in an epic World Cup semifinal in Spain two years ago.

The presence of five players from national league leader Monaco produced an understanding and fluency in the French side, which compensated for wholesale midfield changes made necessary by the absence of key players.

Roared on by a partisan home crowd, France began strongly and within five munutes Fernandez had West German goalkeeper Schumacher at full stretch with a snap shot from just inside the box.

West German skipper Rummenigge hit back a few minutes later when he shrugged off several tackles and unleashed a powerful 20-yard drive, but it flashed just wide.

France then gradually dominated play with attractive, studied build-ups in midfield, but the Germans always threatened with fast breakaways.

The French pressure finally paid off when Six wriggled past a German defender on the touchline and crossed for Genghini to slam the ball home from six yards.

Neither side made any serious errors throughout the game and made it clear they will take full advantage of any slip-ups by less well-drilled sides in the Championship final which begins in Paris in June.

France can also look forward to the return of European player of the year Michel Platini, who was absent due to club commitments with Juventus.

The best West German performances came from Captain Rummenigge and keeper Schumacher, both of whom had received anonymous death threats a few hours before the match.

Analyzing France's victory, coach Michel Hidalgo told reporters April 19, "From now on we are the favorites and this is my main worry, because it's the first time we've been in such a position.

"We must accept this role and attune ourselves to it."

Hidalgo paid tribute to the commitment and enthusiasm of his team.

"The discipline was good, and at the same time the players were mobile and varied their game. This is the best way to counter the power play of the Germans," he said.

The European Championships begin in Paris on June 12.

FRANCE—Bats, Battison, Le Roux, Bossis (Domevere), Almoros (Ferreri), Fernandez, Six, Bravo, Genghini, Rocheteau (Anazani), Bellone. WEST GERMANY—Schumacher, Bruns, Bernd Foerster, Karl-Heinz Foerster, Briegel, Matthaeus, Meir (Herget), Rolff (Littbarski), Brehme, Rummenigge, Voeller. (Reuters)

West German keeper Harald Schumacher holds up the European Championship trophy, but could they lose it to France? (Photo by Bob Thomas)

Saudi Arabia upsets Kuwait in Olympic qualifier

SINGAPORE — Saudi Arabia caused the biggest upset of the Asia-Oceania group "A" Olympic qualifying tournament when it beat favorites Kuwait 4-1 here April 22.

The shock victory before a 25,000-strong crowd at the National Stadium put Saudi Arabia, which led 1-0 at halftime, in a commanding position to qualify for the Los Angeles Olympic Games in July.

For Kuwait, which scored five points in four games, the defeat was a severe jolt to its Olympic hopes. Its fate now hinges on the game between Saudi Arabia and South Korea on April 25.

Saudi Arabia fired the first salvo in the 31st minute when Mehaisen Aldosari scored with a header off a right-flank free kick by Saleh Al-Dossary.

Seven minutes into the second half, Mehaisen slotted home during a goalmouth mele. His first try hit the bar but he made sure with a clean shot off the rebound.

The Kuwaiti bench protested vehemently to Australian referee Chris Bambridge against the Saudi's second goal.

Kuwait's Brazilian coach Tony Perez exchanged harsh words with Hong Kong linesman Thomson Chan and Bambridge ordered Perez to leave the bench.

During the game, Bambridge also ordered Kuwaiti Waleed Al-Mubarak off the field for deliberately kicking Saudi Arabia's Fahed Mosaibeh and cautioned Kuwaiti Humoud Al-Shemmari and Saudi players Ahmed Bayazid and Mehaisen Aldosari.

Kuwait, the Asian Games champion, scored its only goal in the 54th minute when Abdulla Al-Buloushi broke through from the right edge of the penalty area to drive home a powerful groundshot.

The Saudis sealed the victory with two goals in the final three minutes of the game from striker Majed Mohammed.

South Korea overcame New Zealand's stubborn defensive play to win 2-0 in another group "A" game.

Victory in its final game against Saudi Arabia will guarantee South Korea an Olympic berth.

A tie will mean a playoff with the runners-up of group "B" and also knock Kuwait out of contention.

After a scoreless first half, New Zealand went on the offensive and came close to scoring twice.

New Zealand midfielder Keith Garland's shot in the 48th minute beat South Korean goalkeeper Kung Ki Dong but fullback Yoo Byung Ok cleared the ball off the line just in time.

In the 57th minute, New Zealand's striker Peter Simonsen missed with a close-range header.

The Koreans scored their first goal in the 65th minute with Jung Young Whan's powerful 15-yard shot.

The second came three minutes later when striker Choi Soon Ho broke through on the left flank and hammered a low shot from 10 yards past New Zealand goalkeeper Frank Van Hattum.

Asian Games champion Iraq moved closer to the Olympics with a 2-1 win over Japan that lifted it to the top of group B.

All the goals came in the first half before 15,000 fans at the Singapore National Stadium.

Iraq threatened a goal riot when striker Wahid Munir Yaacob headed home a right-wing cross by midfielder Matik Abidann after two minutes to open the scoring.

But Japan, out of contention for the Olympic finals, pressed hard for its 34th minute equalizer which came when Hiromi Hara headed in from Nobutoshi Kaneda's center

Iraq came back to make it 2-1 a minute before halftime when Adnan Derjal Muttar drove his shot through a five-man Japanese wall from a 30-yard free kick.

Group "A"						
Saudi Arabia	2	1	0	8	3	5
South Korea	2	1	0	3	0	5
Kuwait	2	1	1	5	4	5
Bahrain	0	1	2	1	4	1
New Zealand	0	0	3	1	7	0
Group "B"						
Iraq	2	0	0	4	2	4
Qatar	2	0	0	3	0	4
Malaysia	1	0	1	2	3	2
Thailand	1	0	1	2	3	2
Japan	0	0	3	4	9	0

(Reuters)

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WORLDLY WRAP-UP

Australia joins in World Cup wrangle

SYDNEY — Australia and New Zealand will resist an attempt by the European Football Union (UEFA) to extend the World Cup qualifying dates for the winner of the Oceania group from November 1985 to January 1986.

Australian federation chairman Sir Arthur George said April 18, "We are adamant that the November deadline be adhered to."

Australia and New Zealand form the Oceania group with Israel and Taiwan. To qualify for the 1986 finals in Mexico, the group winners will have to beat the runners-up of one of the European groups.

The European Union wants more time to complete its earlier matches. But Australia and New Zealand are opposed to the extension, George said, and to a further UEFA proposal that the International Football Federation (FIFA) convert the decider into a single match in Europe, rather than applying the normal home-and-away principle.

The dispute will be decided at a FIFA congress meeting in Zurich next month. (Reuters)

Keegan wants to ride in Grand National

NEWCASTLE, England — Former England captain Kevin Keegan said April 22 he hoped to ride in the Grand National Steeplechase next year after his retirement from the game at the end of this season.

The former Liverpool, Hamburg and Southampton striker now plays for second division Newcastle United.

Keegan told television interviewer Derek Thompson, "It is a serious thing. Obviously I've got a lot of work to do, but it is an ambition of mine."

Keegan has been a horse racing fan for many years. He breeds horses with another former England international Mike Channon, who now plays for first division Norwich City. (Reuters)

Zico goal fails to save Udinese against Juventus

ROME — Juventus stayed firmly on course for the Italian league championship with a 3-2 win over Udinese April 21.

Two goals by substitute Beniamino Vignola put it four points clear as Roma tied 2-2 at Avellino.

Early Juventus pressure paid off with an 11th-minute goal by World Cup hero Paolo Rossi, but the Turin side lost its pace and Udinese took a 2-1 lead shortly before halftime with Massimo Mauro and Brazilian Zico each scoring within two minutes.

Vignola, brought on to replace Pole Zbigniew Boniek, made it 2-2 on a pass from Marco Tardelli, then went through the Udinese defense on his own to score the winner.

Juventus' triumph, a valuable boost for the April 26 European Cup Winners' Cup semifinal against Manchester United of England, was marred when Rossi limped off in the second half.

Reigning champion Roma made a great start against Avellino as bomber Roberto Prozzo scored his 100th league goal and Brazlian Toninho Cerezo headed home from a free kick.

But Argentine Ramon Diaz led the fightback with a goal in reply and Gian Pietro Tagliaferri scored the equalizer seconds before time.

Roma was left with little to celebrate before its European Cup return leg against Dundee United also on April 26.

Fiorentina had its hands full against Inter Milan, a club looking forward to the arrival of West German Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, whose compatriot Hansi Muller was in sparkling form.

Aldo Serena netted for Inter in the 31st minute and Fiorentina was lucky to win a last-minute penalty netted by Argentine Daniel Bertoni for a 1-1 tie.

In the struggle to avoid relegation, Genoa kept its hopes alive with a 2-1 win over doomed Catania. Pisa is almost certain to go down after losing 1-0 against Sampdoria. English striker Trevor Francis was the scorer.

Young Dane Michael Laudrup scored twice and Bruno Giordano, just recovered from months of injury, netted once to give Lazio a 3-2 win over fellow strugglers Napoli.

Verona and Torino, fighting with Inter for a UEFA Cup berth, tied 2-2, leaving the three teams equal on 31 points behind Juventus on 40, Roma on 36 and Fiorentina on 34. Three games remain. (Reuters)

Stuttgart goes top as Bayern crashes

BONN — Stuttgart took the lead in a four-team race for the West German title when Bayern Munich lost 3-2 against Werder Bremen April 21.

Stuttgart, which lost the first division lead earlier in the season to Bayern, deservedly beat Bochum 1-0 with a ninth-minute goal by Andreas Mueller.

The win put it top with 41 points, one ahead of Bayern Munich, Hamburg and Borussia Moenchengladbach in the closest championship race in years.

Goals by international striker Rudi Voeller and Wolfgang Sidka left Bayern Munich 2-0 behind at halftime.

Bayern staged a tremendous fightback and equalized with goals from Michael Rummenigge and his brother Karl-Heinz, who goes to Inter Milan next season as world soccer's second-most expensive player.

But Werder, which hopes to finish among the leaders, had the last word when Frank Neubarth headed the winner in a classic match which left it with 37 points.

Hamburg, third on goal difference, had many escapes at the hands of a lively Arminia Bielefeld before taking one of its few chances only four minutes from time.

Wolfgang Roth hit the winner after Arminia's Japanese winger Kazuo Ozaki had wasted countless chances while playing havoc with Hamburg's defense.

International midfielder Lothar Matthaeus sat simmering on the bench as Waldhof Mannheim went 2-1 up against his club, Borussia Moenchengladbach.

But after 70 minutes, Coach Jupp Heynckes sent him on as a substitute. Matthaeus equalized two minutes later and then scored with a free kick to give his team a 3-2 win.

Borussia's first goal was scored from a penalty by Hans-Guenter Bruns. Mannheim's goals came from Guenter Sebert and Thomas Remark.

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge's goal for Bayer Munich put him five ahead of his closest pursuer with 21 league goals this season. (Reuters)

Benfica still top of Portuguese league

LISBON — Reigning Portuguese champion Benfica crushed Espino 6-0 at home April 21 to maintain its three-point lead in the first division with three games remaining.

Porto, second with 46 points, also won at home by 3-0 over Varzim.

Benfica's scoring spree was led by striker Diamantino who hit a hat trick. Other goals came from Nene, the league's top scorer with 20 goals, Alvaro and Manniche.

Porto, which plays at Aberdeen April 26 in the second leg of its European Cup Winners' Cup semifinal, had an easy win with goals by Sousa, Jaime Magalahes and Jacques.

Portuguese referees were back on duty after their boycott of last weekend's fixtures in protest against an attack on a referee in Oporto.

But in an incident in the Rio Ave-Setubal game, referee Mario Luis was hit on the head by a stone hurled by an angry fan and he stopped the game until he received assurance of no further incidents. (Reuters)

Bordeaux shows Auxerre no mercy as leader Monaco wins

PARIS — Second-placed French First Division side Bordeaux crushed any hopes that Auxerre may have had of a share in the championship with a crunching 4-1 win on April 22, as leader Monaco took one more step toward the title.

Goals last night from Rene Girard, Bernard Lacombe, Jean-Francois Thouvenel and West German international Dieter Mueller sank third-placed Auxerre's slim hopes with only one more game remaining.

Monaco, which seized the lead last month, stayed one point clear with an unexciting 1-0 win over middle-of-the-table Rouen. With defender Manuel Amoros sidelined through suspension it was up to striker Bruno Bellone to slot in the one goal.

At the bottom end of the table Saint Etienne, the team that once carried French hopes in European soccer, now finds itself in real danger of second division soccer next season after going down 0-1 to fourth-placed Toulouse.

In its last match Saint Etienne faces Auxerre on May 2, and will need nothing short of a miracle to climb out of the danger zone. After last night's defeat it lies third from bottom. (Reuters)

Feyenoord tightens grip on Dutch championship

ROTTERDAM — Feyenoord Rotterdam tightened its grip on the Dutch First Division championship despite dropping a point at home against neighbor Sparta.

Sparta held the league leader to a scoreless tie, but second-placed PSV Eindhoven lost 1-0 at Ajax Amsterdam, giving Feyenoord a three-point advantage with four games remaining.

Feyenoord attacked Sparta constantly with Andre Hoekstra hitting a post and Peter Houtman missing several chances. Some magnificent goalkeeping also frustrated the leaders.

Eindhoven played well below par in a poor match. The only goal came in the first half when Ajax striker Marco van Basten slipped around two defenders and shot home from the edge of the area.

Ajax's victory took it into second place, ahead of Eindhoven on a better goal difference. (Reuters)

Poland fails to qualify after home draw

LUBLIN, Poland — Denmark helped East Germany into the Olympic competition in Los Angeles by holding Poland to a scoreless tie in the final game of the European qualifying group B here April 22.

The Poles had been favorites to notch the win needed to overtake East Germany, but the tie left it 13 points from eight games, the same as the East Germans, but with an inferior goal difference.

Although the Danes finished a poor fourth in the five-nation group, they were unlucky to be denied victory. Londall beat the goalkeeper from a pass by Rasmussen seven minutes before time only to be judged offside.

Poland pushed forward at the start of the second half, but failed to make any clear-cut scoring chances and eventually sagged as the prospect of qualifying receded.

East Germany beat Denmark 4-0 at home on April 18 to set up its Olympic place. (Reuters)

Beveren cling to two-point lead over Anderlecht

BRUSSELS — Beveren clung to a two-point league lead over UEFA Cup semifinalists Anderlecht April 22 as a Belgian season tarnished by scandals drew toward an exciting climax on the field.

Beveren, which has led the league all season, had a 2-0 home win over Waregem in a roughhouse match in which five players were booked. There are only three more games this season.

Anderlecht, which has to make up a two-goal deficit against England's Nottingham Forest in its UEFA Cup semifinal return-leg match in Brussels, kept its league hopes alive with an easy 3-1 home win against lowly FC Liege.

Standard, the better-known Liege team, has been decimated by eight suspensions after admitting having bribed opponents Waterschei to ensure victory in the 1981-82 league championship.

A depleted Standard lost 2-0 to Malines April 22, but remained in fourth place, in contention for a UEFA Cup berth next season.

Meanwhile, Saint-Nicolas made sure of promotion to the first division by winning the second division championship with one game remaining. (Reuters)

Athletic Bilbao leader one round from the final

MADRID — A goal four minutes from the final whistle gave Athletic Bilbao a 2-1 away victory over Valencia and preserved its razor-thin lead in the Spanish first division April 22.

After being held scoreless until halftime, the Basque team took the lead in the 68th minute when Daniel Ruiz scored from a scramble in front of the net. Five minutes later Valencia's local player Roberto Garcia Pitarch shot the equalizer.

In the 86th minute Jose Noriega scored the winning goal for Bilbao, which still leads Real Madrid by a goal difference of one with each team having a single match remaining.

Real Madrid, playing at home, beat Real Valladolid 2-1 with a goal in each half, though it dominated the match throughout.

Jose Salguero made it 1-0 in the 16th minute and Carlos Santillana notched the second seven minutes into the second half. Uruguayan Jorge da Silva replied for Valladolid in the 68th minute.

Barcelona remained one point back of the pacesetting teams by beating Espanol 5-2 in the Catalan derby after opening up a comfortable 4-1 lead by halftime.

International winger Marcos Alonso powered Barcelona to victory with four goals while Francisco Carrasco, another winger, got the fifth.

But six minutes before halftime Argentina star Diego Maradona was sent off for a foul on Espanol defender Miguel Angel.

With all to be decided in next week's final games, Bilbao is at home to Real Sociedad, Real Madrid is away to Espanol and Barcelona is away to Atletico Madrid. (Reuters)

England takes under-21 lead in semifinal

MANCHESTER — England, although weakened by club calls, coordinated well to beat Italy 3-1 in its European under-21 championship semifinal first-leg game at Maine Road April 18.

England, with eight changes from its quarterfinal lineup against France, took a fifth-minute lead through striker Mark Chamberlain.

SOCCER SCORES

All standings are listed as: won, tied, lost, goals-for, goals-against, points.

ALBANIA, Division I
April 23
Labinoti 1, Vllaznia 0
17 Nentori 2, 31 Korriku 0
Skenderbeu 0, Dinamno 0
Naftetari 1, Tomori 0
Flamutari 2, Besa 1
Traktori 1, Partizani 1
Luftetari 1, Lokomotiva 1
Labinoti leads the standings with 32 points, followed by 17 Nentori with 29 points.

ALGERIA, National Championship
April 21
USM Al-Harrach 0, M A Hussein 0
ESM Bel Abbes 1, EP Setif 0
ACS Oran 1, WO Boufarik 0
JS Bordj Menaiel 1, RS Kouba 2
WKF Collo 1,CSO Chlef 0
GCR Mascara 1, MP ORan 1
CM Belcourt vs. MP Algiers and CSM Guelma vs. JE Tizi Ouzou postponed.
Leading standings: GCR Mascara 58 points, USM El-Harrach and WO Boufarik 53, RS Kouba, EP Setif, CSO Chlef and ASC Oran 52, MP Algiers and ESM Bel Abbes 51, MP Oran 50.

ARGENTINA, Division I
April 23
Argentinos Juniors 7, Velez Sarsfield 2
Chacarita Juniors 2, Atlanta 0
Temperley 0, Huracan 1
Union de Santa Fe 2, Inst. de Cordoba 1
Newell's Old Boys 2, Rosario Central 1
Racing de Cordoba 3, Independiente 0
Talleres-Cordoba 0, Estud.-la Plata 1
S. Lorenzo-Almagro 0, Ferro Carril O. 0
Platense 2, Boca Juniors 2
River Plate did not play

Huracan	4	0	0	7	2	8
Racing-Cord.	3	0	1	6	2	6
F.C. Oeste	2	1	0	3	0	5
Estud.-la Plata	2	1	0	5	3	5

AUSTRIA, Division I
April 21
Eisenstadt 1, SSW Innsbruck 0
Austria Klag. 6, Wiener Sportclub 0
GAK 0, Austria Vienna 0
Admira Wacker 1, Sturm Graz 0
Rapid 8, Neusiedl 0
FAV AC 1, Austria Salzburg 0
Lask 6, St. Veit 0

Aust. Vienna	15	5	3	61	20	35
Rapid	14	7	2	56	17	35
Lask	13	6	4	44	21	32
Sturm Graz	12	5	6	42	30	29
Aust. Klag.	10	7	6	41	26	27

BELGIUM, Division I
April 22
Seraing 3, Cercle Bruges 1
Beringen 3, Molenbeek 1
Beveren 2, Waregem 0
Courtrai 3, Waterschei 2
Anderlecht 3, FC Liege 1
Ghent 2, Antwerp 0
Club Bruges 4, Lokeren 0
Malines 2, Standard Liege 0

Beveren	19	7	5	53	32	45
Anderlecht	18	7	6	73	35	43
Club Bruges	15	10	6	63	35	40
Stand. Liege	15	6	10	52	40	36
Seraing	15	5	11	57	46	35

BRAZIL, Division I
April 23
Fluminense 4, Portuguesa Desportos 2
Oper. Mato Grosso 1, Santo Andre 20
Fortaleza 1, Vasco da Gama 5
Uberlandia 1, Coritiba 1
Flamengo 2, Santos 2
America 1, Nautico 1
Goias 0, Corinthians 1
Atletico Paranaense 1, Gremio 4
April 19
Fluminense 2, Operario Grosso 0
Santo Andre 0, Port. Desportos 0
Fortaleza 0, Uberlandia 2
Curitiba 0, Vasco da Gama 0
America 0, Flamengo 0
Nautico 1, Santos 0
Corinthians 0, Gremio 0
Group P—Fluminense 9 points, Operario 5, Portuguesa and Santo Andre 3.
Group Q—Vasco da Gama 8, Uberlandia 6, Coritiba 5, Fortaleza 1.
Group R—Flamengo 8, Nautico 5, Santos 4, America 3
Group S—Gremio 7, Corinthians 6, Atletico Paranaense 5, Goias 2.

BULGARIA, Division I
April 18
Cherno More 0, Etur 1
Shoumen 2, Levski Spartak 2
Sliven 2, Trakia 0
Chernomorets 2, Belasitsa 0
Lokomotiv Sofia 2, Botev 1
Slavia Sofia 1, CSKA Sofia 1
Haskovo 3, ZHSK Spartak 1
Beroe 3, Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2

Levski Spartak	14	5	2	44	17	33
CSKA Sofia	13	6	2	50	19	32
Botev	7	9	5	25	20	23
Sliven	8	7	6	31	27	23
Lokom. Sofia	9	4	8	28	23	22

EAST GERMANY, Division I
April 21
Lok Leipzig 3, Rot-Weiss Erfurt 0
Chemie Halle 1, Wismut Aue 1
Dynamo Dresden 5, Hansa Rostock 0
Magdeburg 6, Stahl Riesa 0
K-M-Stadt 2, Chemie Leipzig 1
Union Berlin 1, Dynamo Berlin 3
Carl Zeiss Jena 6, Vor. F'furt 3

Dyn. Berlin	15	4	3	56	27	34
Dyn. Dresden	13	8	2	53	20	34
Lok Leipzig	13	5	5	49	27	31
Magdeburg	11	7	5	50	30	29
Vor. F'furt	11	6	6	50	34	28

ENGLAND, Division I
April 23
Birmingham 1, Arsenal 1
Everton 2, Wolverhampton 0
Ipswich 2, Norwich 0
Stoke 1, Queens Park Rangers 2
West Bromwich 3, Sunderland 1
April 21
Arsenal 3, Tottenham 2
Aston Villa 2, Watford 1
Liverpool 3, West Brom. 0
Luton 3, NOtts County 2
Man. United 4, Coventry 1
Norwich 2, Stoke 2
Nottm. Forest 5, Birmingham 1
Q.P.R. 2, Leicester 0
Southampton 2, West Ham 0
Sunderland 2, Everton 1
Wolves 0, Ipswich 3
April 18
Leicester 3, Liverpool 3
Tottenham 2, Aston Villa 1
April 17
Coventry 2, Nottm. Forest 1 (brought forward from April 24)
Southampton 3, Everton 1 (postponed Jan. 28)
Watford 0, Man. United 0 (postponed April 14)
West Ham 3, Luton 1
Division II
April 23
Barnsley 0, Blackburn 0
Cardiff 1, Derby 0
Crystal Palace 2, Charlton 0
Fulham 3, Brighton 1
Grimsby 0, Cambridge 0
Manchester City 2, Huddersfield 3
Newcastle 5, Carlisle 1
April 21
Brighton 3, Crystal Pal. 1
Cambridge 0, Barnsley 3
Charlton 2, Portsmouth 1
Chelsea 3, Shrewsbury 0
Derby 1, Fulham 0
Huddersfield 2, Leeds 2
Sheff. Wednesday 1, Grimsby 0
Swansea 3, Cardiff 2
April 20
Blackburn 1, Newcastle 1
Carlisle 1, Middlesbrough 1
Oldham 2, Man. City 2
April 17
Cardiff 0, Crystal Palace 2 (postponed Jan. 2)

ENGLAND, Division I
April 21

Liverpool	21	10	6	65	29	73
Man. United	20	11	6	68	35	71
Nottm. Forest	19	7	11	66	41	64
Q.P.R.	19	6	12	58	31	63
Southampton	18	8	9	46	33	62
West Ham	17	7	13	56	48	58
Tottenham	16	9	13	60	57	57
Arsenal	16	7	14	64	52	55
Aston Villa	15	9	14	54	56	54
Luton	14	8	16	50	58	50
Watford	14	7	16	62	69	49
Norwich	12	12	12	44	40	48
Leicester	12	12	14	62	62	48
Everton	12	12	12	34	39	48
Coventry	12	10	16	51	61	46
Sunderland	11	12	14	37	48	45
Birmingham	12	8	17	36	46	44
West Brom.	12	7	17	40	55	43
Stoke	11	9	17	37	60	42
Ipswich	11	7	19	46	53	40
Notts County	9	9	18	44	63	36
Wolves	5	9	22	26	70	24

Division II
April 21

Sheff. Wed.	23	9	4	67	30	78
Chelsea	21	12	4	77	37	75
Newcastle	21	7	9	71	48	70
Man. City	19	9	9	59	42	66
Grimsby	18	11	8	55	41	65
Carlisle	16	14	7	43	28	62
Blackburn	16	14	7	52	41	62
Charlton	16	9	12	48	52	57
Brighton	15	8	14	61	52	53
Leeds	13	11	13	47	49	50
Shrewsbury	13	10	14	38	49	49
Barnsley	14	6	17	54	47	48
Huddersfield	12	12	12	46	43	
Cardiff	14	4	19	49	57	46
Portsmouth	13	5	19	63	56	44
Fulham	10	12	15	48	49	42
Middlesbrough	10	12	15	37	42	42
Crystal Pal.	10	10	17	36	47	40
Oldham	10	8	19	41	65	38
Derby	9	9	19	33	64	36
Swansea	6	7	24	32	73	25
Cambridge	2	11	24	26	71	17

FRANCE, Division I
April 22
Brest 1, Laval 0
Metz 2, Nantes 1
St. Etienne 0, Toulouse 1
Monaco 1, Rouen 0
Auxerre 1, Bordeaux 4
Bastia 0, Nancy 1
Rennes 0, Sochaux 1
Lille 1, Nimes 0
Toulon 3, Lens 0

Monaco	21	9	6	54	28	51
Bordeaux	21	8	7	68	31	50
Auxerre	20	7	9	57	31	47
Toulouse	19	6	11	56	39	44
Nantes	17	8	10	45	29	42

HUNGARY, Division I
April 23
Zalaegerszeg 2, Vasas Budapest 1
Ujpesti Dozsa 0, Diosgyori VTK 0
Budapest Honved 3, Nyiregyhaza 0
Szeol AK Szeged 4, Raba Eto 2
MTK VM 3, Volan 1
Tatabanya 4, Pecs 1
Haladas VSE 1, Ferencvaros 0
Csepel 3, Videoton 1

Budapest H.	15	5	3	49	17	35
Ujpesti Dozsa	11	10	2	41	22	32
Raba Eto	10	7	6	53	45	27
Videoton	11	4	8	34	22	26
Tatabanya	10	6	7	32	30	26

ITALY, Division I
April 21
Avellino 2, Roma 2
Catania 1, Genoa 2
Fiorentina 1, Inter Milan 1
Juventus 3, Udinese 2
Lazio 3, Napoli 2
AC Milan 0, Ascoli 0
Sampdoria 1, Pisa 0
Verona 2, Torino 2

Juventus	16	8	3	53	25	40
Roma	13	10	4	41	23	36
Fiorentina	12	10	5	47	29	34
Verona	12	7	8	39	29	31
Torino	10	11	6	33	25	31
Inter Milan	10	11	6	28	20	31
Udinese	10	9	8	43	36	29
Sampdoria	10	7	10	32	28	27
Ascoli	8	11	8	26	31	27
AC Milan	7	12	8	31	37	26
Napoli	6	11	10	24	34	23
Lazio	7	8	12	31	44	22
Genoa	5	11	11	21	34	21
Pisa	2	15	10	16	31	19
Catania	1	9	17	11	45	11

KENYA, Division I
April 23
Gor Mahia 4, KTM 3
Post Office 2, AFC Leopards 1
Lake Warriors 1, Kahawa 3
Scarlet 2, Rivatex 1
Nzoia 0, Breweries 0 (match abandoned due to heavy rain)
Motcom 0, Leopards 0
Bata Bullets 2, Benham 0
Cargo 0, Kahawa 0
Transcom 4, Rivatex 2
Hotstars 2, Breweries 1

Breweries	4	3	1	12	7	11
Motcom	3	5	0	12	7	11
Gor Mahia	5	0	0	16	5	10
Bata	4	2	1	8	4	10
Leopards	3	2	1	11	4	8
Kahawa	3	2	3	9	11	8
KTM	3	1	4	22	14	7
Rivatex	2	2	3	8	9	6
Posta	2	2	2	6	8	6
Transcom	1	3	1	7	6	5

MALAWI, Premier Division
April 23
Limbe Leaf Wanderers 0, Malawi Rail. 0
Berec Power Pack 1, Bata Bullets 2
Sucoma 1, Hardware Stars 0
Nico 0, Admarc Tigers 2
Red Lions 1, Oilcom Athletics 0

L.L. Wand.	3	1	0	4	0	10
Sucoma	3	0	1	4	2	9
M. Rail.	2	2	0	3	1	8
Red Lions	2	1	1	3	1	7
Admarc Tigers	2	1	1	6	5	7
Bata Bullets	1	1	2	4	5	4

MOROCCO, Division I
April 23
FAR 1, COD Meknes 1
WAC Casablanca 1, OC Khouribga 1
FUS Rabat 3, MC Oujda 1
RS Kenitra 1, El Jadida 1
RS Berkane 2, KAC Kenitra 0
Ben Salah 1, Raja Casablanca 1
RSS Settat 1, Sidi Kacem 0
Soc Mohammedia vs. Mas Fez (postponed)
The Royal Armed Forces lead the table with 51 points, followed by Khouribga 47, Meknes 46, Fus Rabat and El Jadida 45.

MOZAMBIQUE, Division I
April 23
Ferroviario Maputo 2, Namutequeliua 2
Maxaquene 4, Palmeiras 1
Incomati 8 1, Red Star 2
Desportivo Beira 0, Nova Alianca 2
Ferroviario Beira 0, Textafrica 2
Textafrica, Maxaquene and Nova Alianca are tied at the top of the table with a maximum four points from two matches, followed by Desportivo Maputo with two points from the one league game it has played so far.

NETHERLANDS, Division I
April 23
Willem II Tilburg 0, Helmond Sport 0
Utrecht 0, Fortuna Sittard 0
DS'79 Dordrecht 0, Feyenoord R'dam 3
Sparta Rotterdam 3, Haarlem 4
Excelsior 3, Groningen 0
Roda JC Kerkrade 1, Ajax Amsterdam 1
PSV Eindhoven 7, G.A.E. Deventer 1
AZ'67 Alkmaar 1, Den Bosch 1
April 22
Den Bosch 3, PEC Zwolle 1
Volendam 3, Willem II Tilburg 2
Helmond Sport 2, Utrecht 2
Fortuna Sittard 4, DS'79 Dordrecht 1
G.A. Eagles 1, AZ'67 Alkmaar 4
Feyenoord 0, Sparta Rotterdam 0
Haarlem 2, Excelsior Rotterdam 2
Ajax 1, PSV Eindhoven 0
Groningen 4, Roda JC 1

Feyenoord	22	7	2	86	30	51
PSV E'hoven	21	6	4	80	28	48
Ajax	20	7	4	87	39	47
Haarlem	13	12	6	54	46	38
Sparta R'dam	11	13	7	69	52	35

NIGERIA, Division I
April 23
Owerri Spartans 2, Raccah Rovers 0
First Bank Lagos 1, NNB Benin 0
Bendel Insurance 1, Calabar Rovers 1
Enugu Rangers 1, ACB Lagos 2
Abiola Babes 1, DIC Bees Kaduna 1
Mighty Jets of Jov vs. IICC Shooting Stars (postponed)

Calabar	3	1	1	9	5	7
Owerri	2	2	1	7	4	6
Abiola Babes	2	2	0	5	2	6
Bendel	2	2	0	4	2	6
NNB	1	3	1	4	4	5
Enugu	2	1	2	3	3	5
First Bank	2	1	2	5	7	5
DIC Bees	0	4	1	2	3	4
ACB Lagos	2	0	3	5	8	4
IICC	1	1	0	2	1	3
Mighty Jets	1	0	3	3	5	2
Rac. Rovers	0	1	4	1	6	1

NORTHERN IRELAND, Division I
April 23
Carrick 0, Larne 3
Distillery 0, Bangor 0
Glentoran 1, Glenavon 1
April 21
Bangor 1, Cliftonville 2
Carick 3, Coleraine 0
Crusaders 0, Ards 0
Glenavon 1, Distillery 1
Glentoran 2, Portadown 0
Larne 0, Ballymena 1
Linfield 3, Newry 0
April 17
Ballymena 1, Coleraine 2
Linfield 6, Crusaders 1
Portadown 0, Newry 2

PORTUGAL, Division I
April 21
Benfica 6, Espinho 0
Porto 3, Varzim 0
Agueda 0, Sporting 1
Braga 3, Guimaraes 0
Farense 1, Salgueiros 1
Penafiel 0, Boavista 0
Estoril 1, Portimonense 0
Rio Ave 2, Setubal 1

Benfica	23	3	1	78	16	49
Porto	21	4	2	56	7	46
Sporting	18	3	6	52	20	39
Braga	13	7	7	35	28	33
Setubal	11	7	9	36	26	29

ROMANIA, Division I
April 22
Dinamo Bucharest 3, CS Tirgoviste 0
FC Olt 5, Jiul Petrosani 0
FC Bihor 1, Univ. Craiova 1
Sportclub Bacau 2, Sportul Stud. 0
Polit. Iasi 1, FC Baia Mare 0
Ch. R. Vilcea 1, Steaua Bucharest 0
Petrolul Ploesti 2, Corvinul Hunedoara 4
Dunarea Galati 1, FC Argesi Pitesti 0
Rapid Bucharest 1, ASA T. Mures 1
Staua Bucharest leads the league after 29 rounds with 38 points and one game in hand, followed by Dinamo Bucharest, 37 points and three games in hand, Universitatea Craiova 35 points, Sportul Studentesc 34 points and FC Arges with 33 points and one game in hand.

SCOTLAND, Premier Division
April 21
Dundee United 1, Dundee 1
Hibernian 0, Hearts 0
Motherwell 1, St. Mirren 0
Rangers 1, Celtic 0
St. Johnstone 0, Aberdeen 2
April 18
Aberdeen 5, Dundee United 1 (postponed Jan. 21)
Dundee 1, Motherwell 0 (postponed March 17
St. Mirren 2, Celtic 4 (postponed March 17)
Division I
April 21
Airdrie. 1, Partick 0
Alloa 2, Raith 0
Ayr 1, Hamilton 1
Brechin 0, Dumbarton 3
Clyde 2, Kilmarnock 1
Clydebank 1, Meadowbank 1
Falkirk 0, Morton 1
SCOTLAND, Premier Division
April 21

Aberdeen	22	4	3	71	16	48
Celtic	19	6	7	72	37	44
Dundee United	16	7	6	56	31	39
Rangers	14	7	9	46	35	35
Hearts	9	13	9	33	42	31
Hibernian	12	5	16	41	50	29
St. Mirren	8	12	12	49	52	28
Dundee	10	3	18	45	67	23
St. Johnstone	9	2	21	31	75	20
Motherwell	4	7	22	29	68	15

Division I
April 21

Morton	19	11	6	68	43	49
Dumbarton	19	10	7	60	38	48
Partick	18	6	12	63	47	42
Clydebank	16	10	10	58	46	42
Brechin	14	12	10	53	49	40
Falkirk	15	6	15	43	50	36
Clyde	11	12	13	50	47	34
Kilmarnock	14	6	16	50	50	34
Airdrie	12	9	15	40	49	33
Hamilton	9	14	13	39	44	32
Meadowbank	11	10	15	46	62	32
Ayr	9	12	15	52	65	30
Raith	8	11	17	45	59	27
Alloa	8	9	19	41	59	25

SPAIN, Division I
April 22
Barcelona 5, Espanol 2
Salamanca 2, Atletico Madrid 2
Real Zaragoza 1, Sevilla 1
Cadiz 0, Osasuna 0
Real Sociedad 1, Real Mallorca 0
Valencia 1, Athletic Bilbao 2
Malaga 1, Real Murcia 0
Real Betis 3, Sporting 0
Real Madrid 2, Real Valladolid 1

Ath. Bilbao	19	9	5	51	29	47
Real Madrid	21	5	7	57	36	47
Barcelona	19	8	6	60	27	46
Atletico M.	17	8	8	52	45	42
Real Betis	17	4	12	45	39	38
Real Sociedad	14	9	10	42	33	37

SWITZERLAND, National Cup
Quarterfinals
April 23
St. Gallen 2, Bulle 0
Lausanne 3, Zurich 2 (OT)
Lucerne 0, Aarau 3
Servette Geneva 5, Chiasso 0
Draw for semifinals: Lausanne vs. St. Gallen, Aarau vs. Servette Geneva

TURKEY, Division I
April 23
Fenerbahce 3, Genclerbirligi 2
Trabzonspor 1, Galatasaray 0
Boluspor 1, Besiktas 0
Ankaragucu 0, Antalyaspor 0
Zonguldakspor 1, Sakaryaspor 1
Karagumrukspor 3, Denizlispor 0
Orduspor 1, Bursaspor 0
Adanaspor 0, Sariyerspor 0
Kocaelispor 1, Adanademirspor 2

Trabzonspor	16	12	1	39	12	44
Fenerbahce	17	6	6	44	22	40
Galatasaray	15	9	5	51	26	39
Besiktus	13	9	7	34	19	35
Ankaragucu	9	13	7	24	17	31

WEST GERMANY, Division I
April 21
Arminia Bielefeld 0, Hamburg 1
Bayern Munich 2, Werder Bremen 3
Fort. Duesseldorf 4, E. Frankfurt 2
SV Waldhof 2, B. Moenchengladbach 3
Bayer Leverkusen 2, Kaiserslautern 0
Bayer Uerdingen 2, B. Dortmund 1
Eintracht Brunswick 2, Cologne 2
VFL Bochum 0, Stuttgart 1
April 19
Kickers Offenbach 3, Nuremberg 1

Stuttgart	16	9	4	64	28	41
B. Munich	17	6	6	71	34	40
Hamburg	17	6	6	62	31	40
B. Moen'bach	17	6	6	65	40	40
W. Bremen	15	7	7	62	37	37

YU OSLAVIA, Division I
April 23
Radnicki Nis 2, Sloboda Tuzla 1
Velez Mostar 2, Zeljeznicar Sarajevo 0
Red Star 1, Buducnost T'grad 0
Vardar Skopje 4, Pristina 0
Celik Zenica 2, Rijeka 3
Sarajevo 1, Dinamo Zagreb 0
Vojvodina Novi Sad 1, Olim. Ljubljana 0
Hajduk Split 2, Dinamo Vinkovci 2
Osijek 0, Partizan Belgrade 0

Red Star	14	6	7	44	21	34
Hajduk	9	14	4	33	15	32
Zeljeznicar	11	10	6	42	30	32
Partizan	11	10	6	28	21	32
Rijeka	13	6	8	38	32	32

ZAMBIA, Heroes & Unity Cup
April 23
Vitafoam United 2, Mufulira Blackpool 1
Strike Rovers 1, Ndeke Eagles 0
Muf. Wanderers 5, Zamcoal diggers 0
Power Dynamos 3, Mutondo Stars 2
Nchanga Rangers 3, Green Eagles 0
Green Buffaloes 5, Butondo WT 1
Kalulushi MS 4, Nitrogen Stars 3
Kabwe United 1, Ndola United 0
Profund Warriors 1, Red Arrows 2
Roan United 2, Kitwe United 0
Ludc 3, Zesco 1
Lusaka Tigers 3, Konkola Blades 0
City 0, Malaiti 0

Continued from previous page

Thirty-five minutes later debutant and fellow-striker Mick D'Avray struck a second goal.

Mel Sterland scored England's third goal with a 72nd-minute penalty when Stewart Robson was brought down in the penalty area. Then Italian substitute Alessandro Renica scored a consolation goal 10 minutes from time. (Reuters)

Belgium sneaks late victory over Poland

WARSAW — Belgium sneaked a 1-0 win over Poland in a friendly April 17 when substitute Alexander Czerniatynski scored with what was virtually his first kick of the game.

The 88th-minute winner, against the run of play, avenged the Belgians' 3-0 defeat by Poland when the teams last met in Spain in the 1982 World Cup finals.

It was also a big disappointment for Polish veteran Grzegorz Lato, who bowed out of international competition in his 104th appearance in the number seven shirt.

The stocky, balding 34-year-old showed only brief glimpses of the form that won his fame in the 1974, 1978 and 1982 World Cups and was substituted, to the evident disapproval of the 20,000-strong crowd, in the 65th minute.

Lato had arrived only this afternoon from Mexico, where he plays for the Atlanta club, but despite jetlag he was cheered every time he touched the ball.

Even though the Belgians packed their defenses at the earliest signs of trouble, they barely held out in three tight goalmouth incidents early in the second half.

Then, just before time, a cross from the right to Czerniatynski allowed him to beat his marker on the edge of the penalty-box and shoot past the despairing Polish goalkeeper, Josef Mlynarczyk.

Belgium and Poland have been drawn in the same 1986 World Cup qualifying group, and after tonight their encounters look set to be tight.

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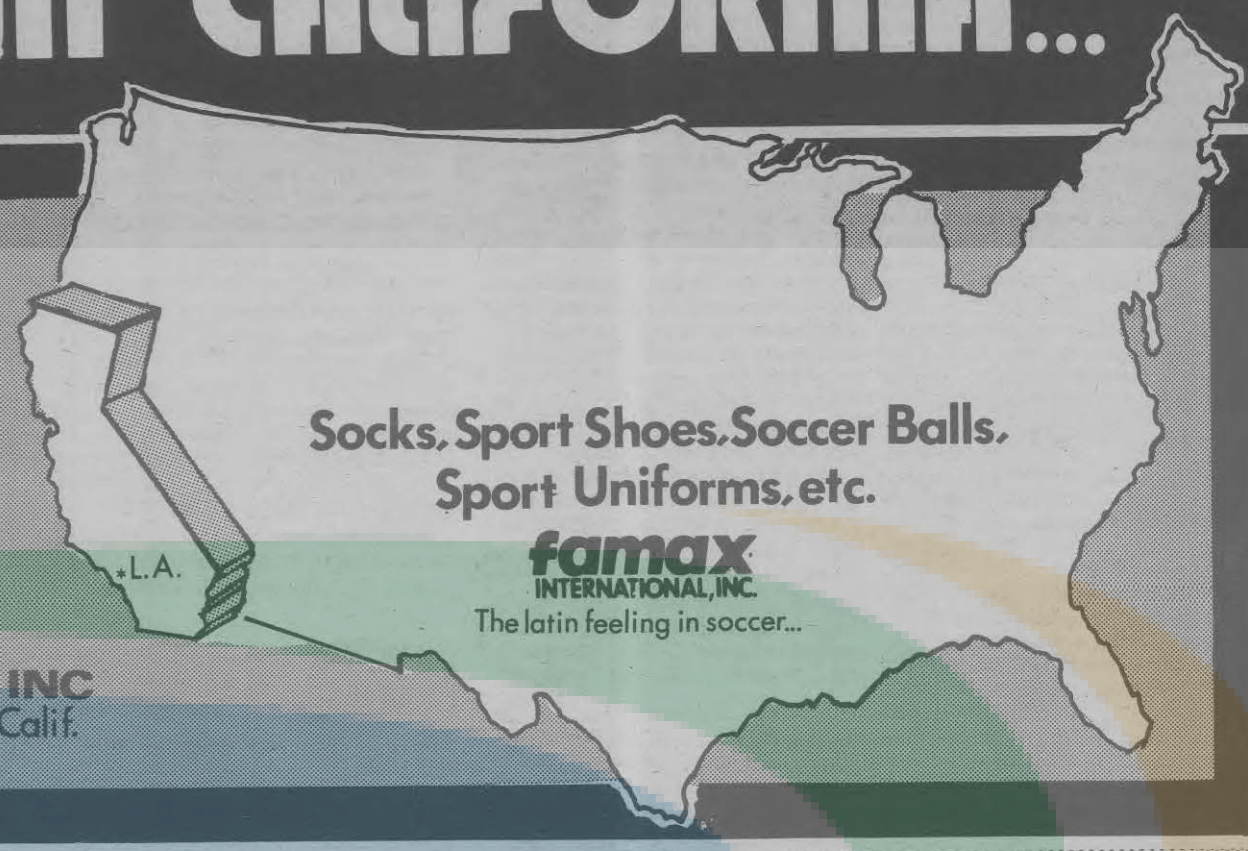

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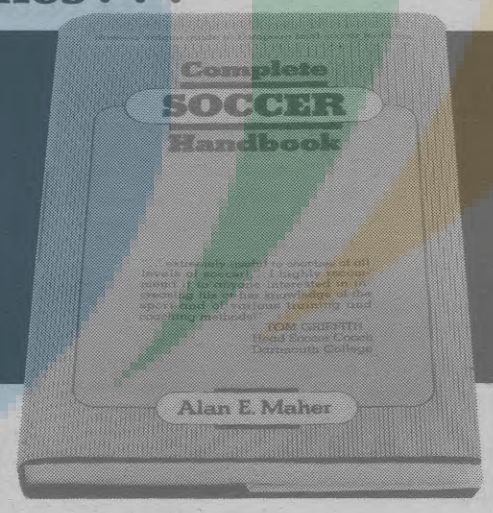

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"IF YOU DON'T TAKE CARE OF IT CORRECTLY YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE OUT ON A LOT OF GAMES. BY THE WAY IT'S VERY CONTAGIOUS."
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GOLLY, I USED TOM'S SOCKS YESTERDAY, NOW MAYBE I'VE GOT IT.
YES, BOB, YOU'VE GOT IT TOO!
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
NOW BOTH OF YOU NEED TO START A SPECIAL PROGRAM.
CAN WE STILL PLAY SOCCER ANYWAY?
SURE, IF YOU FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:
FIRST, WASH YOUR FEET THOROUGHLY EVERY NIGHT WITH SOAP AND WATER...
SECOND, DRY THEM CAREFULLY. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE MOISTURE HELPS THE INFECTION TO GROW...
THIRD, USE A SPECIAL POWDER YOU CAN GET FROM YOUR DRUGGIST. IF IT'S VERY BAD, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD SEE YOUR DOCTOR...
FOURTH, ALWAYS USE CLEAN SOCKS.
AND DON'T FORGET TO TELL YOUR FAMILY WHAT YOU HAVE SO YOU CAN PREVENT REINFECTION OR PROBLEMS FOR THEM TOO!!!

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PERFORMERS FROM PATRICK®

The #1 indoor soccer shoe worn by your favorite MISL stars

Photo by Janis Reitaliata

Joe Ulrich
New York Arrows

Keegan King
- Unique cantilevered sole
- Supple full grain leather upper
- Suede reinforced heel and toe
- Perfect for all playing surfaces

Missile
- For all playing surfaces
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- MISL player-designed sole
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American ingenuity has improved a European tradition.

A family company in New England is proving you don't have to be European to be innovative with soccer balls. The Brine brothers have brought a fresh approach to a sport that had changed so little over the years that change had begun to seem unthinkable.

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Wind Channeling® a patented feature which prevents knuckling or jumping, and thus promotes a longer, truer flight.

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An unconditional guarantee that's stamped right on the ball.

While the industry blinked at the other ideas. it practically choked on this one.

The Brine brothers claim they haven't done any thing unusual. Rather, they were able to see what was needed when others, perhaps, had stopped looking. Proof that their ideas work in the market place is that the Brine International 32® is used by more schools and colleges than any soccer ball in the country.

Call it American ingenuity or country smarts, in any case, in its own way the Brine brothers of New England are bringing the soccer ball into the 20th Century. Somebody had to do it.

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The American Contribution To Soccer.

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